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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 4 June 1992

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Jeudi 4 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 4 June 1992

The House met at 1004.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

HUMAN TISSUE GIFT AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LE DON DE TISSUS HUMAINS

Mr Henderson moved second reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur le don de tissus humains.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): Some months ago, the parents of a young constituent of mine, nine-year-old Nicholas Martin, told me about the plight of this little boy who has a fatal lung condition and needs a lung transplant to save his life. I have a personal window on the life of Nicholas Martin because my own nine-year-old son happens to be in his class at school. He goes to school every day with an oxygen tank, and his life has hung by a thread now for many months.

What stands between Nicholas Martin and a new lease on life is the relative absence in Ontario of youthful lung donors for a lung transplant operation. True, the Hospital for Sick Children has a two-year-old paediatric lung transplant program, but according to the Toronto Star on November 26, 1991, the program had yet to see a single operation.

Across Ontario there are some 780 patients waiting for transplants, including heart, lung, liver and kidney. These vital organs are not easy to obtain. They must come from patients who are declared brain-dead, usually as a result of injury, because organs and tissue from people dying of many illnesses are rendered unsuitable by the nature of the disease.

At many facilities, thanks to education campaigns by dedicated transplant doctors and organizations like MORE, the multiple organ retrieval and exchange program, doctors do routinely ask permission to use organs when a patient is declared brain-dead. However, at smaller hospitals and some large ones, especially if the doctor knows the family and cares about the feelings of the family, it is very difficult for the attending family physician to ask a family already grieving at the death of a loved one, a loved child, whether parts of the body of the deceased child may be used to save another life. Often the request is not made, which is very understandable, although tragic in its consequences because lives are being lost for the lack of donor organs.

This matter came to my attention because the father of another patient awaiting transplant at the Hospital for Sick Children happens to be the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the government of Nova Scotia. I found out from him

that Nova Scotia had enacted legislation a year ago ensuring that the request for donor tissue could not be overlooked when a patient dies in hospital. The Nova Scotia act simply required that the hospital designate someone to think of asking the family, whenever a death occurs, for permission to use tissue or organs, specifying that the request will not be made if the tissue is unsuitable, if there is no need for the tissue in question, or if the emotional or physical condition of the person to whom the request must be made—in the case of a child, usually the parents—is such as to make the request insensitive or inappropriate.

The moderate approach of this bill does not force the issue of consent—even the issue of asking—or of tissue or organ donation on anyone. Let's bury that idea right now. No new bureaucracy is needed to administer this bill. It does not create any new bureaucracy. It doesn't even require that the matter be raised if circumstances make it inappropriate to do so. But it does mean the idea cannot simply be overlooked. Somebody will be designated to think of doing it.

This Nova Scotia legislation is working very well. There have been no reported negative results. Dr Alan Macdonald of the transplant team at the Halifax General Hospital speaks very warmly of this Nova Scotia bill and of its results.

1010

The bill I have brought forward for debate in second reading today is modelled on this very successful Nova Scotia legislation. It is not the only approach that could be taken to the matter of assuring organ retrieval. For example, several European countries, including Belgium and Austria, presume consent to be given unless it is specifically denied. People who do not want their organs transplanted must register their objection in advance. Not surprisingly, about twice as many organs are retrieved in those countries as in North America. Nevertheless, most of us would have ethical difficulties, I think, with that approach.

The state of Texas has an interesting approach that requires that once an adult has given consent for the removal of his or her tissue in the event of brain death, consent can be respected without the approval or consent of next of kin. That approach too has merit, but my approach I think is gentler.

I have spoken to the Minister of Health about this matter. To be fair, she has demonstrated her concern and her wish to help. She said, for example, in a letter to me as recently as yesterday, "Let me assure you that the ministry shares your objective of ensuring that every potential donor is identified and that the family or next of kin are given an opportunity to consider and consent to donation." The minister goes on to express the hope that, "We"—that is, she and I—"can work together towards our shared objective."

However, I am baffled that the minister, sharing my objective, does not see the wisdom, indeed the necessity,

of this bill. I even wonder whether, politics aside, in her heart of hearts she perhaps does.

Several weeks ago I met with the minister in her office and with representatives of several other relevant organizations, including MORE Ontario, the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Medical Association. From MORE and Ted Boadway of the Ontario Medical Association and representatives of the OHA I learned about important work that is being done in the area of enhancing consent on a voluntary and cooperative basis without legislation of the sort I am arguing for here today. The idea, of course, is to ensure that greater availability of organs and tissue comes to pass in Ontario. I applaud that work, I applaud the work of MORE and I applaud the work of the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association in this area. I want it to continue, and I know it will continue.

So I am puzzled that this bill, which has the strong support of leading Ontario transplant physicians and surgeons in Ontario, does not appear to have the support of MORE, at least at the moment, and I share the sense of dismay of those very same transplant doctors that this is so and that the minister, as of yesterday at least, is heeding the advice of MORE, not the advice of doctors working in the field. I do understand that, at least as of yesterday, this bill is not going to have the support of the Minister of Health when it comes to a vote later on this morning. The minister says:

"MORE's board of directors has reviewed its position on recorded consideration and advised the ministry that the strategy proposed in Bill 153 would be limited in its ability to achieve our shared objective. This conclusion is based on the broad loopholes in the draft legislation and on studies of the success of recorded consideration in other jurisdictions. I have accepted this advice," says the minister, "and decided not to support Bill 153 when it is debated in the Legislature."

Each of us will have his own views as to the reasons for that. Of course I would prefer that the bill pass, but I am quite willing to stand on principle on this matter, knowing that the bill should pass and ultimately, I am sure, will. I even have a hunch the minister may privately agree with me.

I have talked to several transplant physicians and surgeons in Toronto, London and elsewhere and they are strident and vigorous in their support for this bill. They do not share MORE's views of its so-called loopholes and they definitely do not share MORE's view that voluntary compliance with measures for achieving organ procurement is working well enough. In fact, they expressed dismay that MORE was not in strong support of this bill, dismay that the minister had as of yesterday accepted MORE's advice, and dismay that this bill would not likely become law. I think that they, along with the parents of children awaiting transplants in Ontario, will make their dismay well known in the months to come. Should this bill not pass today, I wouldn't be surprised to see a very similar piece of legislation come forward again very soon.

I will save my further remarks, Mr Speaker.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I'm very pleased to rise this morning and make a few comments on the proposed legislation and private member's bill. Bill 153, An Act to Amend the Human Tissue Gift Act, requires that if a person dies in a hospital, the administrative head of the hospital or a person designated by the administrative head must seek the consent of a person, if consent has not been obtained, to conduct a post-mortem transplant of tissue from the body of the deceased.

I want to just comment a bit on the background leading up to today's private member's bill. In 1990 the provincial government, the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Hospital Association and the multiple organ retrieval and exchange program, known as MORE Ontario, agreed to amend the Public Hospitals Act. This amendment was known as regulation 518 and it established policies and procedures in hospitals which encouraged the donation of organs and tissues.

As of February 1992, a total of 172 hospitals have policies and procedures in place which encourage organ donation. There are 36 hospitals without policies and procedures that encourage organ donation. I should point that out, Mr Speaker.

The eye bank has noted increases in 1990 and 1991 in eye donations since implementation of regulation 518, and the increased activity of the multiple organ retrieval and exchange program's regional communications coordinators in encouraging hospitals and staff to promote organ donation has also resulted in some increase in organ donation. We see that this increased activity by these regional coordinators has paid some dividends. Twenty-six of the hospitals that had provided donors prior to regulation 518 increased activity by one to five donors in 1991. Further, 22 hospitals that had no activity prior to 1990 now have provided at least one donor.

But despite the diligence of these regional communications coordinators, the organ transplant problem continues to grow. In 1991 there were 793 people on Ontario's waiting list for transplant organs. This represents a sizeable rise from the previous year, when 690 people were on the transplant waiting list. The increase to the waiting list is all the more significant because it came during a year of unprecedented activity to encourage hospitals to implement policies to promote organ transplants.

Again, there still remains a critical shortage of donated organs. In 1991, 577 transplants were carried out, as opposed to 597 in 1990, and about 30% of people waiting for a heart transplant will die on the waiting list.

This backdrop of increased waitings lists and a shortage of donated organs has caused, I believe, the member for Etobicoke-Humber to introduce this private member's bill this morning. This private member's bill replicates legislation passed by the province of Nova Scotia in 1991, and I think it's important that all members be aware of that fact. Nova Scotia passed a bill that requires hospitals to designate someone to ask the families of deceased patients for permission to obtain body tissue or organs for transplant purposes.

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While Bill 153 is not perfect, it does recognize the desperate need to do more in terms of meeting the critical shortage of organ donations. I want to talk briefly about some of the strengths of the bill.

Encouraging hospitals to do more does not appear to be solving the problem. Physicians have not been motivated to be more receptive to obtaining organ donations. Nurses, however, have been motivated, yet attempts to include organ donor information in nursing school curricula have proven unsuccessful.

In the Minister of Health's letter of yesterday to Dr Henderson, Frances Lankin said she would not support Bill 153 because of loopholes in the legislation, which she did not specify, and on the basis of studies that she claims to have access to, studies of the success of recorded consideration in other jurisdictions. On the basis of these studies the minister has said that she will not support Dr Henderson's private member's bill.

Dr Cal Stiller disagrees with the minister. I should point out that Dr Stiller is a professor of medicine at the University of Western Ontario. He says:

"In some of the 'required requests' legislations in the United States the number of refusals are high because of the fact that it is seen simply as an administrative requirement. This is to some extent addressed in the bill, in that the results of the discussion with the family or the determination not to approach the family is written in the medical records."

Another reason to support Bill 153 is because the government has failed to bring forward any solutions to this critical problem. Even as recently as yesterday, the minister continues to talk about solutions instead of acting to implement them. She says, again in her letter to Dr Henderson:

"The ministry will undertake several initiatives to increase the number of transplant organ donations, beginning immediately. Ministry staff will be working with MORE Ontario and the transplant hospitals to improve the system of donor coordination. In conjunction with MORE, they will also be developing options for an ongoing quality assurance audit of organ donor policies in hospitals and for enhancing the organ donor project."

The NDP government has had two years to bring forward concrete proposals to improve our system of organ donations. Instead, it chooses to continue to talk around a serious issue. I believe, and I'm supported by my caucus colleagues, this legislation requiring recorded consideration could alleviate some of the guilt that individuals feel in asking families of a recently deceased person for organ donations. Again, if sensitively applied and not simply an administrative requirement, Dr Cal Stiller feels that Bill 153 will increase organ donation in Ontario.

I could speak about examples in other jurisdictions, but I simply want to wind up my remarks—because I know some of my colleagues want to speak on this important topic—by saying that we are supportive of the legislation. Although the government has talked the good talk, now is the time for action. I think legislation is required, because simply encouraging physicians and encouraging hospitals

hasn't really worked in the past and there's a tremendous need out there.

I'm pleased to have spent a couple of moments today complimenting the member for Etobicoke-Humber, congratulating him on bringing forward the bill and encouraging all members to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr Paul Wessinger (Simcoe Centre): First of all, I'd like to commend the member for his interest in this whole question of bringing forward the problem with respect to the lack of organs for transplantation in Ontario, because it certainly is a major need. The personal stories and the personal needs cry out for solutions, and our government certainly wants to look to appropriate solutions that will work.

There's no question that the development of organ transplantation is one of the great success stories of modern medicine. Within a few short years, especially since the development of effective anti-rejection drugs, we have seen organ transplantation move from the frontier of being an experimental procedure to where it is now the preferred and proven treatment in a very large number of cases. Not only does it improve the quality of life for the recipients of transplants; the life extension is quite substantial. Even from the whole point of view of cost-effectiveness, it's cost-effective. It's very much a proven medical technology that works.

Tremendous advances have been made and in no small measure it's attributable to such groups as the MORE program for the contribution it's made in its recommendations to the government with respect to improving the situation.

It's true that while advances have been made, difficulties still remain. Some of these difficulties are of a technological, scientific and medical nature and some are what we might describe as being systemic in nature, having to do with the human and organizational issues around organ transplantation.

According to a 1990 survey undertaken by MORE, for example, more than 90% of respondents said they would be willing to donate the organs of an adult family member, yet in 1991 only four out of 10 Ontarians signed the organ donor card on their driver's licences. Ideally, our numbers should be around eight out of 10. While the transplantation people tell us we have the potential for 30 to 35 donors per million population here in Ontario, in actual fact our current numbers are about 15 donors per million.

There are other issues. Some doctors and nurses, for example, have expressed their reluctance to intervene with grieving families and ask them to consider organ donation, especially when these same doctors and nurses have just used all their skills and expertise to keep a patient alive. They point to the great difficulty in moving from care giver to organ retrieval. Hospitals and doctors have also raised the issue of maintaining a donor in an ICU when living patients may need an ICU bed. There are concerns about the cost to hospitals and the compensation provided to doctors during the donor maintenance period.

What all this means, of course, is that our number of organ donors continues to be far less than the demand from donor recipients. As of March of this year, as indicated by

the member for Simcoe West, there were 749 patients in Ontario registered on the organ waiting list. Two years ago, the government took an important step to try to deal with some of these issues when we amended regulation 518 of the Public Hospitals Act. Under the amendment, hospitals are now required to implement policies and procedures in support of transplant organ donation.

According to a MORE survey at the end of 1991, every hospital in the province that is equipped to play a role in organ donation has adopted organ donation policies and procedures. I congratulate and thank the hospitals for so doing.

The issue the amendment to regulation 518 did not address, of course, is the issue of what is called recorded consideration, when hospital staff are required to seek donor approval from families or to record on the patient's record why consent was not sought. That's the purpose of the member for Etobicoke-Humber's bill. Recorded consideration was not included because the experience of other Canadian and US jurisdictions where such legislation is already in place shows it has extremely limited, if any, effectiveness. If I might just quote from the report by MORE dated February 3, 1992, it says:

"There are mixed viewpoints regarding changing the current legislation, despite prior hopes. Outcomes in those provinces that have introduced systems of recorded consideration or required request have not shown increased organ procurement."

In the recent US national cooperative transportation study, the United Network for Organ Sharing, UNOS, found that backlash to required request legislation was listed as one of the 14 factors limiting the supply of organ donors. Furthermore, in our consultation not only with MORE but with the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Hospital Association, the transplant interest groups and the transplant centres, we were told there were more effective alternatives to recorded consideration.

What I would suggest is that we have to look at those other alternatives. Obviously in looking at those alternatives we have to look at the whole question of educating consumers, because at the present time under the Human Tissue Gift Act a person can specify that his organs should be donated, but for some reason this has not proved as effective as it should be. In the new consent legislation, which hopefully will be implemented shortly, it's clearly set out that this matter can be dealt with in prior directions. So that is one aspect: the education of consumers.

1030

In addition, we have to do more work with respect to hospitals themselves. We may have to look at changes with respect to the remuneration of the medical profession with respect to dealing with these items. We may have to look at compensation for costs. We also have to look at the whole question of the education of the medical profession and the nursing profession, as indicated by the member for Simcoe West, and I would suggest we have to work with the Ontario Medical Association to work out more effective ways to encourage the increased donations.

The reason the ministry is not supporting this legislation is not because we don't agree with the intent of the

legislation; it's not because we don't agree with the need for more donors. The reason we're not supporting it is because we believe it will not be effective. Unfortunately the legislation does have a major loophole in clause 5.1(2)(c), because any time a physician does not want to proceed or a hospital does not want to proceed, they can just merely indicate that the request for consideration is inappropriate because of the emotional and physical condition of the person from whom the consent would be requested. I would suggest that this is such a wide loophole that those people who are resistant to obtaining those consents or asking for those consents would use that loophole.

For anything to work I think we need the cooperation of physicians. Putting what they might consider an onerous obligation on them rather than encouraging them might create the backlash and therefore result in not an addition to the donors, but maybe even in some case a backlash, although I'm inclined to think that this would probably be a fairly neutral legislation overall. Therefore I will not be supporting this legislation, because I don't feel it's an effective solution.

Mr Henderson: I understand I can reserve my 15 minutes for later, and I will if that's acceptable to you.

The Deputy Speaker: Perfect.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): It gives me pleasure to rise in the House today and support a bill which, by the way, has been renumbered from Bill 153 to Bill 19. We weren't aware of that until we came to the House today so we've asked people for responses to Bill 153, which is somewhat misleading.

I'm going to start by saying I think that in our role of legislators we shouldn't be bringing forth legislation unless it's necessary or extremely helpful. In this instance I would say that anything that can be done to enhance life's process, the quality of life, should be done. I think we have given, in the area of organ donor and transplant medicine, a great deal of support in the way of public education through school systems, through the hospitals and certainly through the public media and television.

It's our responsibility now to support grieving families that would like, I think, to have the organs of their loved ones donated, because in their desperate needs and in this period of grief, we've been told, and certainly in my experiences with the people I've dealt with for the reasons that I do in London at the different hospitals, that they would find and do find this process very gratifying and relieving.

The reason we don't have more people contributing the organs of their loved ones is because there are certain facts we know about: Approximately 30% have signed a donor card, but that donor card is unlikely to be available or known about by the family. Even when a person has signed a donor card on his or her driver's licence, hospitals won't retrieve organs without the family's consent. We also know that 88% of relatives in the English-speaking population, if asked, would donate the tissue or organs needed; we only know it for English-speaking portions of our society. We also know, and I think this is a very important fact, that less than 20% of relatives are ever asked, and that's one of the reasons for this legislation today.

Deaths occur in patients waiting for heart, liver, lung and intestine transplants, and we currently spend, in our entire health care system, some \$40 million per year supporting patients on the artificial kidney who are suitable kidney transplant recipients were donors available. Certainly in that one particular area I think it's been proven that we need more legislation to allow the hospitals to move forward to make these requests to grieving families. The most important aspect of the bill is something that we can't put in writing, and that is that this has to be done in a very sensitive way.

In speaking to two physicians at University Hospital—Dr Stiller, who has already been mentioned by my colleague the member for Simcoe West, and another physician who I think has advised this Legislature over the years in a very positive way, Dr Bessie Borwein—they both support this legislation as long as it is implemented in a very meaningful way. Dr Rick Suprenia, who is the director of the transplant program at the Hospital for Sick Children, is very supportive of this legislation because he experiences first hand the loss of lives because patients are unable to obtain suitable organs from donors. Today I speak on behalf of front-line workers who have had a lot of experience in dealing with families, and I can only say that because of the kind of input that both my colleague and I tried for, we are in support of this bill.

When the member for Simcoe Centre says the government agrees with the intent and agrees with the need for more donors and then proceeds to say there is a loophole in the bill, he knows very well that if the government could be supportive of this legislation it would be referred to committee. If the intent is appropriate and the need for more donors is something he has said the government is in favour of, then I have to say that all we need to do today is pass it and fix it in committee, where of course we would have public hearings and look for improvements in the legislation.

It gives me pleasure to speak on behalf of the member for Etobicoke-Humber, who has introduced this legislation. I think with the intent, if properly implemented, this can be a very successful process that is not intrusive and can save many lives.

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I also want to commend the member for Etobicoke-Humber for raising this issue. I share his objective, as I think we all do, which is to make sure that potential organ donations are not lost. We all want potential organ donors to be identified and their families or next of kin to be given the opportunity to consider donations. I know that my mother was able to make a contribution of this kind, and I share the view that such a donation can help, even if only marginally, to lessen the pain of the loss of a loved one. This is probably especially true of those who suffer the agonizing trauma of losing a child.

However, I believe we should listen to the opinions of those who are most closely involved with organ donations and, in particular, the multiple organ retrieval and exchange program of Ontario, commonly known as MORE. This organization is not in favour of recorded consideration of why consent for organ donation was not sought in

a given case because it is felt that potential donations can be lost in this way. They believe that greater gains can be made through education and training to prepare hospital personnel to communicate with families and to ask for and obtain consent.

I understand that the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association share this position and that the Ministry of Health is working with more Ontario hospitals and transplant centres and transplant interest groups to implement MORE's recommendation for increasing donor referral.

I believe we are very fortunate here in Ontario and Canada to have a medical system which has the potential to make the best possible use of new technology such as tissue and organ transplants. Such technology has almost miraculous potential but also needs to be subject to constant scrutiny by the community at large. In particular it should have no commercial overtones.

I believe there is no difference of opinion in this House on the fundamental spirit in which organ donation should be conducted and that we would always attribute equal importance as human beings to both donor and recipient, something which is not always the case in some other jurisdictions.

We do want to increase the number of donors, and this is why I cannot support Bill 153, because it seems unlikely that this is the best way to achieve this objective. I believe very similar legislation is in force in Nova Scotia, and the Ministry of Health has been able to look at this and see how it is working. In that spirit I am not able to support the bill, but I do commend the member for bringing it forward.

1040

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I am pleased to speak briefly on Bill 19, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act.

I've listened here this morning and I've observed what the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health had to say. I think the government's excuse is pretty weak for not supporting a bill that would bring life and health to people. I find that a little disappointing.

There are other jurisdictions which I would like to indicate briefly. Bill 19, although flawed, represents a building block and a good starting point to reform the Ontario system of organ donations. In Texas, once an individual signs the back of his licence, consent to obtain organs is given and permission from the family of the deceased is not needed.

The importance of organ donation is exemplified by the fact that one donor can effectively change the lives of up to 11 recipients by bringing them life and health. So I think it's important that some of these facts be put on the record.

In Belgium and Austria the state has a policy of presumed consent. This shifts the onus the other way. Individuals who do not want their organs donated must register their wishes in advance. This system has produced twice as many donated organs as we receive here.

The government could do more to change the education process. This means not just health communities

would be involved but society as a whole would be more conscious of the benefits of organ donation. About 30% of Canadians sign a donor card, but normally the wishes of the donors are not made known to the family. However, 88% of the relatives, if asked, would donate the tissues of organs needed. Unfortunately, less than 30% of the relatives are ever asked.

While the member for Etobicoke-Humber's bill does have some flaws, it is premised upon recorded consideration which should be obtained. More organs would therefore be donated, because at the time the families of the deceased are never asked whether they will consent to give organ donations.

Mr Henderson: Let me apologize for whatever part I played in the confusion about numbering. This bill was Bill 153 previously; it is now Bill 19. So it is Bill 19, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act.

I spoke before about my sense of puzzlement that this bill, which has the very strong support of leading transplant physicians and surgeons in Ontario, does not appear to have the support of MORE, and my sense of dismay, along with those same transplant physicians and surgeons, that the minister, at least as of yesterday and I guess as of this morning, still has chosen to heed the advice of MORE.

I mentioned that these same transplant physicians and surgeons in Toronto, London and elsewhere were very vigorous in their support for this bill. They do not share MORE's view of its so-called loopholes and they definitely do not share MORE's view that voluntary compliance with measures for achieving organ procurement enhancement is working well enough. I ventured the thought that these physicians and surgeons and the parents of children awaiting transplants will make their dismay well known in the months to come. Should this bill not pass today, I wouldn't be surprised if we see something rather similar come forward in the fairly near future. I hope so.

It does seem to me a shame, however, that we can't wrap it up here today. Perhaps it's not too naïve to think that may still be possible, because I know that some of these same physicians, surgeons and parents did their very best to reach the minister last night to convey their views.

Let me refer in just a little further detail to a letter from Dr Cal Stiller, who is the chief of the multi-organ transplant service at the University Hospital in London. Dr Stiller says:

"This bill, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act, is a possible solution to what has become a frustrating and life-wasting process in this country. Of those individuals who die today in Canada who could be donors, the following facts apply:

"About 30% have signed a donor card, but that donor card is unlikely to be available or known about by the family.

"About 88% of the relatives"—when someone dies in hospital—"if asked, would donate the tissue or organs needed.

"Less than 20% are ever asked.

"Deaths are occurring in patients waiting for heart, liver, lung and intestine transplants. We currently spend, in

our health care system, some \$40 million per year for supporting patients on the artificial kidney who are suitable kidney transplant recipients, were donors available.

"The bill before this House"—and I'm still paraphrasing Dr Stiller's letter—"is in keeping with the concept of recorded consideration that was recommended by a task force," which Dr Stiller chaired in 1984. That concept of recorded consideration, "was applied in University Hospital in London through a hospital-derived policy. Monitoring of the patients who have died in the intensive care unit"—in that hospital—"annually, shows that between 84% and 100% of all potential donors are obtained. This is done sensitively, with the needs of the donor family in mind."

Dr Stiller says, "I believe that this bill would increase organ donations in this province." That I think is the heart of the issue: The bill, if sensitively applied and if it became law, would increase organ donation in this province. "I trust," says Dr Stiller, "that you will speak strongly to this bill. I would ask you to remind the members of the Legislative Assembly that in this time of conservation and renewal, to allow life to be destroyed senselessly is out of keeping with society's wants and needs. Every organ wasted is another life lost."

Dr Rick Suprenia of the transplant team at the Hospital for Sick Children, the physician, the doctor, to many of these children, has equally strong views and is also attempting to convey them to the Minister of Health. In my opinion, a legislative thrust is required, in addition to more informal measures, to really do something about the too-low rate of organ procurement for transplant surgery in Ontario. There are powerful psychological reasons that inhibit some attending physicians, especially family physicians who are sensitive to the feelings of bereaved parents whom they know and care about, from feeling comfortable in approaching families about the removal of tissue from a recently deceased child.

This bill, were it to become law, would help a great deal. Speaking as a physician, I know I would find it difficult if I were the family's doctor. A physician, concerned about the psychological state of a bereaved family and with life and death matters on his or her mind for which he or she is personally responsible, may not always be the best person to request tissue or organs and it may well be desirable for the hospital to designate someone who may or may not be the attending physician to ensure that the matter is not neglected.

This is as gentle a legislative approach as I can think of that has a hope of being helpful. It respects and complements the voluntary work I have just referred to. It underlines and operationalizes the concept of recorded consideration recommended by Dr Cal Stiller's 1984 task force and makes that concept a province-wide policy. It does not press the issue of organ or tissue procurement on families when it would be inappropriate to do so. It simply ensures that in every hospital someone will be designated to make an evaluation about the appropriateness of the request, and it ensures that the matter cannot simply be overlooked.

1050

There is more. Nicholas Martin's story does not yet have a happy outcome. It is two years since nine-year-old Nicholas Martin was diagnosed as suffering from emphysema. The Etobicoke Guardian reported on April 19 this year that Nicholas is now on the waiting list at the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital. The Martin family's neighbours have started a Lungs for Nicholas Committee with several fund-raisers and a donation from the Etobicoke Optimists Club to help pay for living expenses for a family member to accompany young Nicholas to Pittsburgh.

Dr Rick Suprenia, the transplant team doctor at our own Hospital for Sick Children, tells me that several young Sick Children's Hospital patients are now on the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital waiting list, and the hospital in Pittsburgh tells me that it is doing paediatric transplant operations at the rate of one every two weeks and that OHIP is funding Canadian young patients to have their surgery in Pittsburgh at US surgeons' rates, which incidentally are much higher than in Canada.

Given that funding, at taxpayers' expense, at US surgeons' rates, wouldn't it make much more sense for the ministry to support this bill so children like Nicholas Martin have a better chance of having their surgery performed by the world-class transplant doctors and transplant teams we have here in Ontario?

Etobicoke Life newspaper on May 13 reported dramatic success of the Lungs for Nicholas drive, with every prospect that when Nicholas goes to Pittsburgh, at least one of his parents will be able to accompany him. But Nicholas Martin should not have to go to Pittsburgh to obtain his transplant. Other Canadian families should not have to struggle, as the parents of Nicholas Martin have struggled, to ensure that the life and death needs of their children are being appropriately met in the Canadian health care system, which relies on voluntary cooperation towards organ donation. Other jurisdictions seem to have been able to muster a more certain availability, and we ought to be able to do that too. We simply have to do a little bit better in this area.

That should not be interpreted by anyone as criticism of the efforts that are now under way. On the contrary, it applauds and I applaud the work of organizations like MORE, the outstanding transplant teams and world-class physicians and surgeons who are already working hard in several Ontario hospitals.

But I do believe we must give these worthy efforts some legislative support as well so the families of children like Nicholas Martin will not have to endure the protracted agony that accrues from extensive delays in the availability of transplant tissue and organs.

Towards conclusion, I want to say that I'm pleased with the debate we've had this morning in general. I want to thank especially my PC colleagues in opposition the members for Simcoe West and London North and Simcoe East for the wisdom and insight and commitment to action they have brought to the discussion and dialogue about this piece of legislation. I'm pleased as well to take note of the support in principle of my government colleagues the members for Simcoe Centre and Peterborough. I appreci-

ate your support in principle and I hope that as discussion and perhaps some lobbying and protest materializes in the days and weeks and months to come, it may be possible for the minister to review her thinking and to decide that a bill of this sort is indeed necessary in the province of Ontario.

It seems to me that when an idea's time has come and its political popularity is clear, anyone can bring it forward and get the support he wants. In many ways, I prefer to be in a position of arguing for something that does not yet enjoy widespread political support, because it is the ideas and legislative thrusts that have merit but do not yet enjoy widespread support that most need articulate and reasoned support and presentation.

Some members will recall that many months ago I advanced a bill here that was a good bill and should have been enacted, but for a variety of reasons the political will and the political climate had not yet come to look at things that way and its support was slim. I said then that was not the first time I had enjoyed such a unique position and it would undoubtedly not be the last.

This bill should be law. The experience of Nicholas Martin, the Nicholas Martin family and many other families like them in Ontario attests to that. I ask for the support of this assembly. I ask for your very careful consideration of the reasons I have put forward this morning in support of this legislation. Each of us of course has a mandate to think of politics when we vote on a piece of legislation. My request is that you think also of young Nicholas Martin, Carmen Young and Ashley Hughes in Hamilton, and vote with your conscience as well as with your political savvy.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for the first ballot item has expired.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, was there still some time left in the debate?

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, there was.

Mr Elston: May I speak then, please?

The Deputy Speaker: Certainly.

Mr Elston: I was sort of informed that there wouldn't be time left to speak, but I wanted to be here anyway. I wanted to stand as a former Minister of Health to recognize the importance of the issue of transplantation and also to lend my support for the idea that people make everyone they can aware of the need to provide organs for anyone who wishes to have the procedure of transplant provided for them.

I have for a long time now been in favour of doing as much as we can to encourage organ donation. I have spoken with Dr Stiller and with a whole series of others. In fact, when I was first charged to be the Minister of Health, my first question was with respect to whether or not a liver transplantation program would be approved for Sick Kids' Hospital. My difficulty at that point was that I didn't know all the ramifications, and in many ways, I think, being human, we very seldom do know the ramifications of everything we do.

I have seen the development, however, over the last five or six years of a relatively more formalized system of

transplant donation arising here in Ontario. I have seen it grow. I know we always, from time to time, wish it would grow faster. But it has grown, in my view, because of people like Dr Stiller and some of the other people who were mentioned by Dr Henderson, in a way which I think has been helpful for us as we digest everything that happens along with transplantation.

I am one who is very much unhappy with the idea, however, that a bill be brought in at this time when we are struggling under tremendous fiscal stresses that would invariably, in my opinion, cause us to build new bureaucracies in the hospital sector, no matter how kind, how careful and how helpful any individual is. When we institutionalize something like this, it causes me great concern because it invariably will take away fiscal assets from the real program itself.

I rise to provide you with that sense of my chagrin with this particular legislation and thank you for allowing me to speak even briefly.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Etobicoke-Humber, you have two minutes.

Mr Henderson: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I won't need two minutes, I don't think. I appreciate the comments of the member for Bruce and I appreciate that we're of like spirit about this. He knows I have difficulty understanding his concern about new bureaucracy because I can't, for the life of me, see how this piece of legislation is going to create any new bureaucracy.

It may be that the administrator of the hospital would simply designate the attending physician as the person to ask and the attending physician, supported and backed up by an administrative policy, would then feel off the hook, as one of the PC members said, with any sense of guilt about approaching the family. It may be, if the administrator felt it would be preferable, that he would designate the head nurse or the nurse in charge or some other person. I think that decision can be made on an individual hospital-by-hospital basis. There is certainly no attempt to displace the attending physician if that seems in a particular area to be the appropriate person.

The bill says only that the matter must be thought of by somebody appointed by the administrator of the hospital and that this individual will have some administrative backup in proceeding to make the request. If, as some of the critics of this bill say, it is more or less happening that way anyway, I have difficulty especially understanding that any new bureaucracy would be created by this bill. All that would happen is that it would become a matter of hospital policy across the province.

Thank you, colleagues, for your input and comments this morning. I believe very strongly in this bill. I believe it's the right way to go. I can count. I think the arithmetic isn't here for this time around. But I think legislation of a similar sort will come forward again and I look forward to seeing the passage of this concept in the not-too-distant future.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for the first ballot item has expired.

1100

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Wilson moved resolution 12:

That in the opinion of this House, the Minister of Municipal Affairs should immediately amend the County of Simcoe Act, 1990, to restore that part of the township of Tecumseth that was amalgamated under the name of the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to the boundary that existed before the County of Simcoe Act, 1990, came into effect, and that these lands will come become part of the town of New Tecumseth.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Wilson moves private member's resolution 12. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): My private member's resolution seeks to undo some of the damage caused by the County of Simcoe Act, 1990, which was one of the final pieces of legislation passed by the previous Liberal government. The resolution calls on the NDP government to amend the act and restore that part of the former township of Tecumseth that was amalgamated into the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to the boundary that existed prior to the final passage of the County of Simcoe Act, 1990.

This amendment would enable residents who live in lots 23 and 24 along the strip of land that runs south of Cookstown to north of Highway 9 to rejoin the new, amalgamated town of New Tecumseth. It would also enable the town of New Tecumseth to have a more logical eastern boundary, which would be Highway 27 as opposed to an imaginary line that cuts across farmers' fields. The frustration felt by residents in lots 23 and 24 is best summarized by local writer Allan Anderson.

"One day some while ago, the residents of a strip of land not much more than a mile wide on the eastern fringe of Tecumseth township woke up to find that, without ever being consulted, this narrow piece of land had been given to the township of West Gwillimbury. There was no logic to this. It was a crass political play to compensate for a piece of land taken from West Gwillimbury and given to Innisfil. It was one of these terrible political decisions without rhyme or reason."

The residents who comprise this strip of land belong to three communities: Newton Robinson, Bond Head and the hamlet of Dunkerron. Newton Robinson is a quaint old village which features a 19th-century church and an Orange Lodge. Bond Head has deep-rooted historic ties to the township of Tecumseth. It is famous for being the birthplace of the renowned physician Sir William Osler. A plaque and a cairn honour his memory and are located in the former township of Tecumseth.

Bond Head is also the birthplace of Mr Ontario, Sir William Mulock. The deep emotional attachment felt by residents of lots 23 and 24 towards Tecumseth township, which was amalgamated with Alliston, Beeton and Tottenham and named the town of New Tecumseth, and the shock of being encompassed into the town of Bradford

West Gwillimbury is probably best captured by Mrs June Chambers of Bond Head:

"When I learned that we were no longer to be part of Tecumseth township I wept and my family was in a state of shock for at least a week. We talked about it at the post office. It was really a strange place to put a boundary line because it's not at any crossroads. It cuts through farms. It's illogical. It doesn't make any sense. I think it's irrational."

I also want to point out that both my great uncle Jack Walsh and my great grandfather Jim Walsh, after whom I am named, lived in this area of Tecumseth township. My forefathers always felt strong ties to the Tecumseth township community of Beeton and also to the town of Alliston. In fact in those days it was very common for them to refer to both Beeton and Alliston as their towns.

There's good reason to amend the County of Simcoe Act. The amalgamation of lots 23 and 24 was done to placate the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, which was forced to surrender some of its lands to the town of Innisfil under the Liberal government's restructuring legislation. Including lots 23 and 24 in the amalgamation cannot be rationalized on the basis of creating stronger, more viable municipalities or providing better delivery of services, because it does neither. In a presentation to Simcoe county council, Iain Mackay described the decision as a cynical, sleazy, political and opportunistic move that at no time took into consideration the needs of the residents of the area.

If the aim of the amalgamation was to provide better and more efficient services, then this goal has not been met. Because of the placement of the boundary between lots 22 and 23 of the town of New Tecumseth, New Tecumseth is forced to enter into intermunicipal agreements with the town of Innisfil and the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to provide snow plowing and sanding. These intermunicipal agreements were not required prior to amalgamation and they would be unnecessary if Highway 27 was the eastern boundary of the town of New Tecumseth.

Also the former township of Tecumseth owned a community centre hall and a park facility in the hamlet of Bond Head. Library services were operated from the community centre hall and the United Church in Newton Robinson. As a result of this amalgamation the town now has to negotiate an intermunicipal borrowing agreement in order to ensure that library services are available to its residents. Hence I argue that the current arrangement lacks any semblance of efficiency and effectiveness.

I also argue that the decision to draw the eastern boundary of the town of New Tecumseth west of Highway 27 has served to weaken the town. Briefly, we have seen a loss of some 6% in the town's pre-amalgamation taxable assessment base. The town no longer has a viable north-south corridor on which to develop and it's severely affecting the town's efforts to compete for commercial industrial development.

By drawing the eastern boundary of New Tecumseth west of Highway 27 the amalgamation has exasperated rather than helped to solve local land use conflicts. The lack of a clearly defined and natural boundary line creates conflicting land uses. Confusion arises over which munici-

pality has authority on land severances for those properties that have been split by the eastern boundary but are under the same ownerships. This restructuring has left Mrs Grace Scott in the awkward position of having her farm in both New Tecumseth and Bradford West Gwillimbury.

One of the objectives of the south Simcoe restructuring study and the subsequent legislation was to provide a model for reform. I suggest it is not a model. It would be damaging to hold up this amalgamation as a model when it establishes a boundary through farm lands and splits land ownerships between different municipal jurisdictions.

Finally, I want to ensure that the people affected by this forced restructuring finally have an opportunity to put their case to the members of this House. A goal in any restructuring should be to minimize the impacts upon local residents. This has not been the case for residents of lots 23 and 24. Many of these residents have lived their whole lives in Tecumseth township. While they were prepared to accept some form of change in local government, they did not expect the double whammy of ending up in an entirely different municipality. Sacrificed on the altar of political expediency has been the will of the people.

In a public meeting held in Bond Head in April 1991 an overwhelming 90% of residents expressed their desire to return to the town of New Tecumseth. A recent survey of land owners of the former township of Tecumseth found that 76% want to return to New Tecumseth. At a public meeting two weeks ago more than 200 people packed the Bond Head community centre and requested that they be incorporated into New Tecumseth and that the town's eastern boundary be restored to Highway 27.

I've received many letters. Diane Kelly of Bond Head writes: "In the 22 years I've been here I feel we have been treated well, maintaining the quiet agricultural nature of our village. I'm very worried that as a tiny piece of Bradford West Gwillimbury we will be swallowed up, overdeveloped and overtaxed."

David Chambers of Bond Head says: They"—meaning the former township of Tecumseth—"have had the maturity to exercise strict control on urban development in rural areas, especially in the area of Newton Robinson. They understand the value in preserving the unique 19th century atmosphere of this hamlet."

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Jim Dermott of lot 24, concession 10, writes: "As members of the community of Newton Robinson, we enjoy the farming community around us and see it as many people's livelihoods. For once I would like to see the politicians listen and follow the voters' recommendations: Leave the boundary where it has always been—Highway 27."

John and Kathy Black of Beeton write: "It would appear that the new line was drawn in order to compensate Bradford West Gwillimbury for the loss of lands in the north end of their townships."

John Farmer of Bond Head: "While it is obvious that the intent of the boundary change is to place boundaries where such do not fragment communities, it is equally obvious that the present boundary dividing West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth is at the very best very poorly placed. Very little input was allowed by affected residents

of the townships concerned, and it appears that change for the sake of change is less than desirable."

Finally, Mrs Bernice Ellis of lot 22, concession 9, who recently received a volunteer award from the NDP government, writes: "The two former townships are surprisingly different. Their terrain, their geographical locations, their local governments, their over 150 years of separate existence, their division by Highway 27 have made them socially and economically individual. One difference is the greater push for development in Bradford West Gwillimbury. The farmers' influence in the new municipality will be considerably weakened by the loss of their former neighbours in the long strip of lots 23 and 24. This change may have a decided effect on their ability to hold their own in the new municipality."

I know other members wanted to speak to this resolution. I'd be happy to make further comments in my windup remarks.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Of course on Thursday morning I'm always pleased to be here to take part in the debates that come before us and, in particular this morning, the debate on the resolution put forward by the member for Simcoe West.

I can speak to this resolution, knowing the area. Way back in 1957 I used to live on the 9th concession of Bradford and I must say that I know the area well. I've spent many an enjoyable evening in that community spot in Newton Robinson. My children enjoyed being brought up in that area.

The resolution asks for the Minister of Municipal Affairs to amend the County of Simcoe Act, 1990, and to restore that part of the township of Tecumseth that was amalgamated under the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. Some time ago south Simcoe underwent a study by the municipal boundaries branch. At that time, eight south Simcoe municipalities were given two options: to be three municipalities or four. The then Minister of Municipal Affairs, your colleague, Mr Speaker, the Honourable John Sweeney, made a decision and picked the three-municipality option. He did that for one reason: The municipalities themselves were never able to agree.

When the balance of the Simcoe county study was being done, the study committee recommended that the particular area noted in the resolution be re-examined by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The Simcoe county council rejected this recommendation by a vote of 53 for and 13 opposed.

The resolution has not been supported by county council or, to the best of my ministry's knowledge, has it even been supported by the council of the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury. A factor in their favour is that they're not objecting to being reconstructed at this point, but they have a preference as to which municipality they want to be in. There does appear to be more of a community interest with the new Tecumseth area.

Of course, against this is the domino effect this could have on the new municipalities which also have ratepayers who would prefer to stay in the previous municipality. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has said the decision asked for in the resolution put forward by the member for

Simcoe West should be a local decision and should be handled locally. The Municipal Affairs ministry will continue to hope these issues will be resolved locally. If this is not possible, then perhaps the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act is the appropriate vehicle to settle any and all boundary issues.

Given my comments, I will not be supporting the resolution placed before us this morning by the member for Simcoe West.

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): As a former Minister of Municipal Affairs I can tell you that amalgamation, expropriation or restructuring of any of our municipalities or regional governments is never popular. I can understand how the member for Simcoe West feels about this amalgamation or restructuring of Simcoe.

At the same time, decisions have to be made. I think the member for Simcoe West realizes the work that went into this amalgamation. People were consulted; people were for and other people or groups were against. This has been going on not only in Simcoe but in many parts of our province for a good number of years. I can remember being involved in the Sarnia amalgamation. It went on for 34 years. Now we're faced with the greater London area restructuring. This has been going on for 11 years.

I think it's very unfair to say that the minister, the former minister, or any previous Minister of Municipal Affairs, for that matter, imposes this restructuring. I think people have to be reminded that in order for the minister to introduce such legislation, an agreement, a resolution of council or county council has to be passed and given to the minister in order to write a mandate: What the future of the region is and what the future of the amalgamation is.

This morning I have to support what former Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable John Sweeney, tried to do at the time of amalgamation in Simcoe. I want to remind the member for Simcoe West that a restructuring of Simcoe is still going on. I don't know what the present Minister of Municipal Affairs has told or guaranteed to the member for Simcoe West. Will he be introducing legislation that will be compatible with what the member is asking for today? I have no guarantee this will happen by the end of June.

I sympathize with the member for Simcoe West. I think he represents his people the way they should be represented, he brings forward their concerns. But even if this resolution passes I would like to remind the member that it will again be a divided issue. I realize that only recently local groups or individuals from these areas met, some 200 of them.

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But at the same time, I don't think this type of resolution or motion can be resolved in this House. I think the decision-making power remains with the local government, and this is what local government is all about. But I've noticed in the last seven or eight years that our municipalities are very reluctant to make those types of decisions, and we are being blamed. This government, like the former government, is being blamed for dumping on municipal government. I'd like to remind the member for

Simcoe West that this is not new, and maybe it all started with the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, Darcy McKeough. I can go back to the days of Darcy McKeough back in 1968, so I don't think the member for Simcoe West can blame the present Minister of Municipal Affairs or the former Minister of Municipal Affairs for what is happening today. I think municipal governments have to take on their own responsibility and resolve their differences, and if they do, I think the provincial government and local governments will feel much better about it, because it will be their decision.

So I will support this kind of motion this morning with some conditions. I think the Minister of Municipal Affairs should consult the people. I know 200 people met recently and all said, "Let's go back to the original boundaries." I realize this, but I think we should consult the same people who accepted the original legislation. Again, I sympathize with the member for Simcoe West because I think he's trying to do the best for his people, but at the same time I think he has the responsibility to make sure that everybody is consulted if we are to go back to the original boundaries.

I am very concerned about what is happening right now in this province with local government. The Minister of Municipal Affairs is supposed to be the salesman, the promoter, of local government, local decision-makers, but what's happening in the greater London area is that an arbitrator is imposing on the greater London area a model of restructuring of the London area, and I think this is totally wrong.

Also, we've been talking about restructuring the Ottawa-Carleton regional municipality for a number of years, at least four or five years, and now, at the very last minute, we are introducing a hooker in the mandate of the commission. Now we're looking at one-tier government. Is it the intention of this government or this minister to abolish regional government in this province? I think it's very important that the minister should answer that. This is imposing on us in Ottawa-Carleton, and the minister has to make a final decision.

I will wait and listen to what other members have to say in support of this resolution. My support is very conditional; I will wait and see what they have to say. That's the kind of support I'm giving the member for Simcoe West.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I'm very pleased to rise this morning and speak to the issue of the restructuring resolution presented by my colleague the member for Simcoe West and indicate my support for it. I'd like to speak with respect to how the county restructuring issue has affected my riding and to indicate the support that I have for his own issue in his own riding.

For many, many years, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has been promoting the concept of county restructuring, mainly under the Liberal government most recently, as we all know, and of course various ministers—three, I guess—were promoting enhanced efficiencies of scale by making smaller municipalities one larger one. But I think what they were showing was their underlying lack of respect for small municipalities and the good administration and the effective government small municipalities are able to give to their people.

The county restructuring study in our riding was initiated in about 1990 at the behest of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and in my opinion there were threats and coercion used to force the county to undergo the study. There were many statements made by the minister of the day stating, "If you don't undergo this study and restructure yourself, we will restructure you," and that was the sentiment that was going out. So Wellington county underwent the study, as I said, with what I feel were threats and coercion put forward by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

So the study was undergone. It was there to find improvements. I am not opposed to any study and I never have been, but I was concerned at the time that the study might be biased because of the rationale behind it, because of the fact that the ministry was forcing it upon our county. I feel there can be benefits to shared services among municipalities, but I think they should always be negotiated locally.

In the preliminary stages of the study what came out was a plan, and various scenarios were discussed that would have really radically restructured Wellington county, reducing 21 municipalities to six, seven or eight; that sort of numbers. The people of Wellington county were aghast when they saw the various scenarios that were being discussed, because they sensed that their local representation, where they knew their local councillors very well, where they had local opportunities to go forward and make presentations at council meetings, would be lost. They were concerned that a larger municipal bureaucracy would be the result in a larger municipality, and that it would be less sensitive to their needs, and very likely that their taxes would increase as a result, and they were concerned about losing their local identity if their township, for example, was amalgamated into a larger municipality.

Of course the study in our riding proceeded, but the election intervened in the fall of 1990 and, as we all know, the Liberals were defeated and the NDP were elected. The NDP Minister of Municipal Affairs at the time shared his responsibility as Minister of Housing of the day, and of course the NDP's priority at the time was Bill 4, the rent control bill, and he devoted very little time to municipal affairs at the time. There was very little particular direction given to municipalities about county restructuring because we had a part-time Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Eventually, after some weeks of lacking direction, they were given direction from the minister that they should go ahead and complete the study, which is what they did. They underwent a number of public meetings, and I attended every one I could. There were a number of changes recommended as the study was finally concluded and presented to the minister, mainly with respect to planning, and out of 21 municipalities, there's a recommendation that the village of Elora and the township of Pilkington would be amalgamated together, and the two councils supported that resolution.

The study went to the minister, and that was almost a year and a half ago now. We're still awaiting a response, but I understand there's going to be a response from the minister within the next few weeks. So we're looking forward to his

views of the county restructuring plan that was put forward by Wellington county after the election.

Since the study was presented to the minister, there's been a local election in my riding, as there has been throughout Ontario, and new councils have been elected in the village of Elora and the township of Pilkington. The new councils have a different view, frankly, than the councils prior to the study, and the amalgamation issue between those particular municipalities appears to be up in the air again.

The bottom line with respect to this sort of discussion is that bigger municipalities are not necessarily better. Small municipalities are very efficiently managed and we should be doing everything we can to retain them. We have to have respect for our locally elected councils, and if we believe in strong communities and local autonomy, we will not have a provincial government that's forcing restructuring on counties and local areas. If those who are promoting the concept of county restructuring believe sincerely in it, they will demonstrate the benefits, and there should be an obligation upon them to demonstrate the benefits to everybody. Locally elected councils which have the trust and respect of their local people, and the residents of the local areas, together must be allowed to have a direct say before any county restructuring occurs.

Of course, that sort of scenario is different than what happened in Simcoe county but in many ways we see a provincial government forcing county restructuring on municipalities through—as I said, in the past threats and coercion have been employed. I do not support those approaches and for that reason I'll be supporting my colleague the member for Simcoe West this morning.

Mr Paul Wessenger (Simcoe Centre): I'd like this opportunity to speak on this question. First of all, I can understand the reason my friend the member for Simcoe West is bringing this resolution forward. I think if I was in his position I would also be supporting such a resolution because of the support his constituents have for the change. I can understand that of any constituents in any particular municipality who are—the boundary changes and they may not like the new municipality they are in. I think that situation occurs throughout Ontario. There are many instances of it.

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From my perspective and from the perspective of my constituency, I would not be able to support his resolution because it would be contrary to the wishes of the municipality of the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury with which I have discussed this issue. Consequently, on the same basis that he's supporting the resolution, if I took that as the basis for voting with respect to this resolution, I would have to oppose it.

However, that is not the basic reason I am opposing the resolution. The reason I have to oppose it is that, first of all, it is a very dangerous precedent to start reopening boundaries after they've been established because it would set up the whole Pandora's box with respect to the whole question of boundaries throughout the whole of Ontario and create a high level of complexity which would be very

difficult to deal with. I think that creates a dangerous situation and precedent.

Second, I think it is very clear that the Minister of Municipal Affairs wants the local county restructuring process to work. He wants the county to determine the nature of the restructuring. In this case, we have a county council which has approved a restructuring process, approved boundaries—59 to 13, I believe was the vote—and I think it's important to support this principle that where a local area decides to restructure, assuming the restructuring makes some sense, it should be supported.

I don't want to say that the restructuring proposal put forward by the county of Simcoe is perfect; I don't think it is perfect. However, I think you have to weigh the whole question of what is perhaps the best in comparison to what the local community wants and the local county council wishes. It's a question of making your basic value: Are you going to have the restructuring process work, are you going to allow the county council to make those decisions and are you going to accept those recommendations from the county council?

The other alternative, of course, with the whole question of government, would be to take a very centralized view and the Darcy McKeough model, view, approach to restructuring government. That certainly has a lot of merit in some cases and I have to say, as a former municipal politician and as someone involved in a wasteful amalgamation that occurred on one occasion, sometimes the provincial government has to take leadership in restructuring municipalities. I would not rule out in the future that a provincial government, whether our own or some other provincial government, may have to take the necessary steps to restructure municipal government in this province, because it may prove to be unworkable.

I am concerned about the number of levels of government we have in the province. I think there's a great deal of inefficiency in some of the regional governments' structures and a great deal of inefficiency in Metropolitan Toronto's situation, particularly with respect to school boards. We seem to have so many levels of government, and we have public utility commissions, which I question. That's another level of elected government. We seem to have this multiplicity of elected bodies and overgovernment in this country and in principle we really should look at this whole question of how we're governed, how we can have a more efficient government, while at the same time incorporating the input of citizens in the decision-making.

It's a very complex situation. As I said, I sympathize with my friend the member for Simcoe West. On a particular issue the merits may be very mixed with respect to that particular boundary, but on the overall principle I have to vote with respect to the overall principle of not opening this Pandora's box.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Are there any other members who wish to participate?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): I welcome the opportunity to say a few words with regard to the resolu-

tion from the member for Simcoe West, Mr Wilson. I welcome the opportunity to make a few comments.

The member has represented his constituents well, and he brings forward the views, considerations and concerns they have raised and he wants to do something about it. The member for Simcoe West wants to restore the part of Tecumseth township that was amalgamated under the name of the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury so that those lands will become part of the town of New Tecumseth.

I urge the minister and his colleagues to support this resolution, which would right a wrong committed by the former Liberal government that unilaterally imposed restructuring on south Simcoe.

The member for Simcoe West has received hundreds of petitions and letters from former Tecumseth township residents who want to belong to the town of New Tecumseth. I have serious concerns that if the minister fails to support this resolution to right a wrong, it will be a prelude to similar difficulties with respect to the restructuring of north Simcoe municipalities.

Last November, the minister wrote to Simcoe county council and the cities of Orillia and Barrie to indicate he intended to proceed with restructuring in north Simcoe. The minister said he would meet all elected representatives in Simcoe county to discuss what he called a "fair and reasonable consultation process" on outstanding issues.

Among the outstanding issues the minister said would be covered by his "fair and reasonable consultation process" are the need for planning throughout the county that deals with area-wide issues and environmental, agricultural and development needs and, most important, the resolution of concerns expressed in municipal submissions and letters from the public.

Minister, I have serious doubts about your promise of a "fair and reasonable consultation process," especially when it comes to the elected representatives of the township of Tiny. It is my understanding that Tiny township officials have written to you numerous times since early March requesting a meeting to express and explain their concerns about the impact of a boundary change with the town of Midland.

I wish the parliamentary assistant to the minister would listen to this.

To date, you have either rejected the township's request for a meeting or failed to even acknowledge receipt of correspondence from elected representatives of the township of Tiny. Do you really call this a "fair and reasonable consultation process"? I don't, and I don't think the elected representatives or the people of Tiny township do either.

As I said earlier, Tiny township council has deep concerns about the impact of the boundary change with the town of Midland. The township would like to phase in the transfer of lands west of Highway 93 in order to provide time to evaluate how to manage without the assessment in other areas of the township.

It has been indicated to me that this assessment revenue in 1991 dollars will result in a decrease by \$404,000 from a total commercial and industrial revenue of \$1.9

million. That represents approximately 20% of the township's revenue that will have to be made up by reduced services or increased taxes or a combination of both.

Minister, I trust you will agree that the elected representatives of the township of Tiny have some important and very real concerns they want to discuss with you as part of your so-called "fair and reasonable consultation process."

Last week you announced that you had accepted the Simcoe county council's final decision on restructuring. You indicated that the county council's recommendations represent an acceptable solution to the issues in the county at this time.

According to the local press, you met with the mayors of Orillia and Barrie last week and told them to give your restructuring proposals a chance to settle in. You told the mayors you would look into their concerns about land they want in abutting townships "once the dust settles." Minister, you owe it to the elected representatives of Tiny township to meet with them to discuss their concerns before that dust settles.

1140

I have had the township of Tiny contact me. They've passed a resolution asking me to get a meeting with the minister, but I indicated that he should reply to their letters and indicate whether he will meet with them first, and if he doesn't, then I will intervene. This minister says he wants to be involved in the process. The township of Tiny has requested a meeting with the minister. He has not met with them and all indications are that he is not going to meet with them. Reeve Hastings of that municipality is very disturbed because of the AMO and Rural Ontario Municipal Association convention. The minister indicated how he wanted to consult with the municipalities. Well, if this is what consulting is doing, he's not doing his job very well.

The member for Simcoe West should be complimented on bringing this legislation forward. It was the previous member for Simcoe Centre who met, drew the line, and put this part of Tecumseth in with the Bradford West Gwillimbury municipality. It was wrong then and it's wrong today; it's still wrong.

I tell you, the reeves who have voted for restructuring in Simcoe county must have a great concern today when they see "Province Accepts Final Reform Package." This is the write-up that was in the paper, and it indicates that Cooke met with Mayor Clayton French and Janice Laking "to ask them to give country reform, as Cooke is now calling it, the opportunity to work" before we talk to you about how we're going to deal with your boundaries around the two cities. What he's saying is: "Let's get the county plan in place. Then you come to us and we will negotiate and we will deal with you on the basis of what we feel your presentations have been to date."

You can read between the lines what's happening here. Guess who does the planning for Simcoe county? They want a plan put on, and guess who's going to be involved in that plan for the county? The ministry and the two cities are going to be involved, and they're going to draw their

boundary lines as they feel fit and the county will have very little say in what's going to happen.

I call this dictatorship, the way this county has done the county planning so far. It's the ministry staff that has led the way, and I tell you, these reeves around the two cities are going to have some second thoughts when it comes time to consider the planning for the county of Simcoe.

I want to just close by saying that this issue is new in the county of Simcoe for the last three years, and what is happening in south Simcoe is just exactly what is going to happen in the north.

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): I guess I would like to enter into this debate as a person who lives in an area that was restructured some 20 years ago. I represent the area of Muskoka and we were restructured about 20 years ago and still suffer growing pains. As things have developed, even at this point there's a growing concern and a growing request coming forward from the local politicians and indeed from the residents of Muskoka that we go through a review of our restructuring, because restructuring is something that evolves. It isn't constant, and after 20 years there are things that we still need and still feel we should have.

I also represent the area of the northwest section of Simcoe county that is going through restructuring. I find that we're in a situation where there are winners and losers. I have one particular township in my riding, the township of Tay, that I feel is going to be a definite loser.

At the same time, I find myself in somewhat of a quandary, because I've always believed that the municipal option, keeping government at the local level and letting the local level make these decisions, is important, and that indeed the provincial government shouldn't interfere unless the decision by the local government is in direct conflict with the interests of the provincial government.

So I find myself in somewhat of a quandary, and I can sympathize with the honourable member for Simcoe West on this, because I could be here in another year or two with a resolution before the House trying to do a somewhat similar thing for the people of Tay. The boundary issues are always difficult. They've been a difficult thing, as I've said, from back when Muskoka was restructured, and they will continue to be something difficult for us to deal with.

When I look at the local option, the local option was the boundary as it exists. There were a number of letters and requests that came forward, and the minister indeed said, "Let's look at it again." The number of people who voiced their preference was so great that he said, "Let's look at it again." So the county of Simcoe made another local decision, and the decision was to not re-examine. The vote was 59 to 13, a substantial majority.

This is where I find myself in the difficult part. I find that the province should uphold the local decision. I would wish, though, that when the local politicians are working on these things they would sit down and think fairly and honestly about the little guy. For that small township out there, when you take any of its commercial base away from the tax base, indeed you are restricting

the advantages throughout the rest of the county to that one group.

As we go through this debate I guess I'm going to have to sit and come up with my stand as to whether I will support the member opposite, and I will await his final rebuttal on this to make my decision. But there is still time before the final legislation is passed, and I would hope that the county of Simcoe sits down once again and comes to something, irons this out at the local level, so that we do not have to be seen as imposing our will on the county, where indeed I don't believe it is to start with. I think a vote of 59 to 13 is indeed a vast enough majority to indicate where the county wants to go, but it is a difficult thing to deal with and it isn't something that will go away tomorrow or the next day.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any members of the official opposition who wish to speak on this debate? There are six minutes left.

Mr Grandmaitre: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: You cannot speak a second time.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): I was under the impression that our critic was indeed going to be given an opportunity for a wrapup, but we respect your ruling on this.

I was just talking to the mover of the motion and asking what the position of the local community is, or at least the representatives in that community, and I understand there was some, perhaps, gerrymandering of this boundary at some time in the past to solve some problems. He explains to me that you now have situations where someone will have his farmhouse on one side of the line and the septic tank on the other side of the line. It doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense.

One of the previous speakers for the government said that he was going to oppose this because he didn't want to open up a Pandora's box. Once you start opening up municipal boundaries and making adjustments, it could spread and become a huge problem around the province. I turned to my colleague our critic for Municipal Affairs and said, "I guess the restructuring in Middlesex doesn't count."

We just recently saw the government make a major announcement in the Middlesex-London area restructuring, some of it going quite contrary to the wishes of some members in that local community. That decision probably represents, in my five years around here, the largest restructuring—

Interjection: A precedent.

1150

Mr Mahoney: As my colleague says, a precedent already established—one of the largest restructurings. There were a lot of concerns being expressed by the local politicians in that community about the planning and about whether or not it was simply an effort to redistribute the wealth in that part of the province. I know it had concerns expressed by our newest member, the member for Brant-Haldimand, who is the associate critic for Municipal Affairs.

For that member opposite to say he's opposed to this because it's going to create a new precedent or open a new issue, I fail to understand that. In fact, this restructuring in 1990, this line that was drawn, clearly set a precedent in that community for restructuring, so I find that argument to be somewhat weak, frankly, and unfortunate.

I can understand the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, who expressed the conundrum that he finds himself in, I guess, in wanting to support the wishes of the local community and yet being afraid of again gerrymandering boundaries. But the reality is that the best government in this province is the government that's closest to the people. Having spent 10 years on a municipal council—and currently my spouse is a municipal councillor—I believe very much that the best government clearly is the government that's closest to the people. I believe the member for Simcoe West has done his homework on this resolution. He has had meetings with representatives in the community to discuss this and to make it a more commonsense boundary that people can understand, rather than having it go down through the middle of fields, ditches and the like.

Frankly, I think we should support this member in this attempt. This is just really another example of the difficulties we've seen in the community with this government and members of the cabinet refusing—

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): Stop it.

Mr Mahoney: George, it's true—refusing to meet with people on issues of concern in the local community.

You don't solve problems by sticking your head in the sand. You don't solve difficulties by refusing to talk to the people who are concerned. We would ask you to come out of the closet, come out of the cabinet rooms and talk to the real people.

We recently saw, just yesterday, that finally, after a year and a half of bashing this government over the head, it came around to the realization that the community wants Sunday shopping, so it finally made a decision. It's just so unfortunate that decision came after thousands of businesses have gone broke, people have lost their jobs and the economy has been reeling in disarray.

I would hope the Minister of Municipal Affairs would not wait for ever, would not just simply stick his head in the sand and refuse to meet—one of the honourable members opposite has suggested that he has yet to meet with the mayors and the local politicians.

Learn one thing: It's those people who are closest to the people, who understand what's going on in their communities; it's none of you here and it's really none of us here who understand the real optics of what is going on in that community. It seems to me that something like this should almost be apolitical and non-partisan. When a member comes forward and puts an issue forward, as he has, then we—

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Are you non-partisan?

Mr Mahoney: In this issue I am. I'm supporting this local member because he's done his homework and he understands the significance and the impact in his commu-

nity. As a result, I'd be delighted to support this member in his resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: There's a minute and 20 seconds left for the government side if it wishes to use it. The member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: I just want to say a couple of things, basically, in response to what was said on the question of the municipal government being closer to the people. I agree with what the member opposite has just said. I would disagree somewhat with the tone of the statements the member made in regard to the government's decision on Sunday shopping or whatever. If we listened to what people are saying in our communities about politicians of all stripes—

The Deputy Speaker: Please speak to the issue.

Mr Bisson: Very good. Seeing I'm not allowed to speak on the member's particular comment, I will sit down and give up the floor.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Simcoe East, you have approximately three minutes left at your disposal.

Mr Jim Wilson: It's Simcoe West, Mr Speaker, but thank you very much. I do want to thank my Liberal colleagues the members for Ottawa East and Mississauga West for their thoughtful comments and support, and also my caucus colleagues the members for Wellington and Simcoe East. I thought a number of points raised on this side of the House were very commonsense and very much appreciated by myself and my constituents.

Because of time constraints today we're unable to really express all the arguments in support of my resolution. However, last November a delegation from the town of New Tecumseth supported by myself did meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dave Cooke. I know the minister is well aware of the issues involved. Having heard the arguments, I would ask that all members support this resolution. It really is a commonsense resolution that isn't scary and doesn't do a number of things the NDP members think it does.

I think best summarizing the points I want to make and countering some of the points made by the government is the following editorial that appeared in the Herald, a weekly publication out of the town of New Tecumseth. The title of the editorial, by Catherine Haller, dated May 27, is "Responsibility." It reads:

"If there's anything to be learned about the amalgamation of south Simcoe, it is surely that this is not the way to change municipal boundaries. From the very start of the process started almost three years ago the approach was heavy-handed, undemocratic and destined to make people feel disenfranchised. The boundary between New Tecumseth and Bradford West Gwillimbury makes no sense and never did. To place an arbitrary line between two lots when the natural boundary was a highway is to display a flagrant ignorance of rural life. What's at fault with amalgamation isn't just the boundaries; it's the process, a process which denied people input."

It goes on to say: "Change is never easy and amalgamation is proving more difficult and painful than anyone

imagined. The county has washed its hands of the debate. The province, which set up the whole mess in the first place, has also turned its back on the issue, leaving it up to citizens to try and correct something they had nothing to do with causing.

"Amalgamation was and is a valid principle, but it should be done correctly. The Minister of Municipal Affairs cannot walk away from this. He must respond to the pleas of the people and the insistence of Simcoe West MPP Jim Wilson and immediately investigate these boundaries. Without provincial action each community will have to lobby, petition and fight for changes. Each municipality will have to devote time and money to boundary negotiations.

"The main reason cited by the provincial government in the first place for amalgamation was that there were too many requests for annexations, and the way to resolve it was to redraw the map. Well, they redrew the map—incorrectly.

"We call on the Minister of Municipal Affairs to launch an immediate investigation at the province's expense into the boundaries and to deal with the issue fairly, democratically and decently. To walk away from it is cowardly and an abrogation of responsibility. To say it was the Liberals who started this is no excuse. It was the provincial government which took the initiative and imposed amalgamation. It's up to the provincial government to listen to the people and make the necessary sensible and fair adjustments."

I really couldn't have summarized it better myself, and I ask for all members' support of this important resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: The time provided for private members' public business has expired.

HUMAN TISSUE GIFT AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LE DON DE TISSUS HUMAINS

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): We will deal first with ballot item 11, standing in the name of Mr Henderson. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

1205

The House divided on Mr Henderson's motion for second reading of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Human

Tissue Gift Act, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes—19

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Cordiano, Cunningham, Grandmaître, Henderson, Jordan, Mahoney, McLean, Miclash, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Runciman, Turnbull, Villeneuve, White, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Nays—28

Bisson, Carter, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Elston, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Lessard, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Waters, Wessenger, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

The House divided on Mr Wilson's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes—18

Arnott, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Cordiano, Cunningham, Elston, Grandmaître, Henderson, Jordan, Mahoney, McLean, Miclash, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Runciman, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Nays—29

Bisson, Carter, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Lessard, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Poole, Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman.

The Deputy Speaker: All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair. The House will resume at 1:30.

The House recessed at 1210.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I rise today at the request of a constituent, but also in honour and memory of her late husband, to speak about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known, I guess, as Lou Gehrig's disease.

As you're aware, Mr Speaker, this is ALS Week. I can remember, as a young boy, watching the Lou Gehrig story—I'm sure many people have seen it repeated on television—and seeing a tremendous person being devastated by a disease that simply took his life. This is the fate of many people who suffer from ALS.

In fact, six to seven people out of 100,000 are afflicted by this disease. It is a death penalty to these people. More research must be done. In fact, if 5% of Canadians were to contribute one loonie to the ALS Foundation, there would be sufficient funds there to carry out research so that one day we will be able to find a cure for this terrible disease.

I wear a blue flower, a cornflower, which is a symbol of ALS. This weekend, on the 5th and 6th, will in fact be Cornflower Day. I urge all Canadians, all Ontarians and certainly all the people in my riding to consider contributing a loonie to eliminate this disease and make certain that people such as my constituent Donald Glen and also a very famous baseball player, Lou Gehrig, will be able to rest in peace knowing this disease has been conquered.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): The month of June is dedicated to the recognition and acknowledgement of the many significant contributions to our society by senior citizens. Later today, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will preside at a seniors' achievement awards ceremony. I am very proud that Hugh Lamb of Burlington, who serves on my seniors' advisory committee, will be among those so honoured.

June is also report card month, and like students who are afraid to face their parents with poor grades, the part-time NDP minister responsible for seniors' issues has strangely been silent about seniors throughout the previous year. No wonder. The NDP has drastically cut drugs from the Ontario drug benefit plan used by seniors, the Ontario tax grant for seniors was cut from \$600 to \$450 for its transitional phase and the new credit program will cut \$100 million away from seniors at the same time as the NDP spends \$15.2 million on bilingual highway signs.

Also in the NDP budget, cuts were announced for homes for the aged in the amount of \$27 million, and recently the Health ministry changed the residency requirement for OHIP benefits without advising seniors. The auto insurance income replacement benefits for long-term disabled individuals run to age 65 and are then reduced. We are still awaiting changes to long-term care reform and the recommendations from the Lightman commission.

The NDP will some day learn the lesson of history, which is that the measure of society's level of civilization is the extent to which it values and cares for its frail and elderly senior citizens.

FIRE SAFETY HOUSE

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Today I want to bring to the attention of the Legislature the town of Newcastle's firefighters and their ingenuity in creating a mobile miniature fire safety house.

This fire house is on display at Courtice Carnival in Courtice this Saturday, but first of all I want to mention all the hours of work put into the construction of this fire safety house by off-duty full-time and part-time firefighters.

The fire safety house has been named Danelle after the only daughter of Newcastle firefighter Owen Ferguson and his wife Connie, who lost their daughter after only two weeks of life.

The role of the fire safety house is in the education of children on fire prevention and safety. The house is a 21 by 13.5 by 8 foot scaled-down, two-storey house. This mobile home travels around the schools to teach children, in a most realistic way, fire prevention safety. The reactions from students, teachers and school boards have been tremendous.

The firefighters of the town of Newcastle are to be commended not only for the contribution of their time and their own hours in building the safety house, but for their dedication to educating children in fire safety and fire prevention, thereby undoubtedly saving future lives.

NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS DAY

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): Yesterday I had the privilege of attending National Access Awareness Day in Campbellford. This is the third year for the local group More Able Than Disabled to provide a day when the town residents can learn and experience the difficulties encountered daily by the people who are challenged in some way.

The success of this event is unquestionably due to the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of the resident physiotherapist, Doreen Sharpe. Doreen and her helpers organized four groups, each assigned a disability, to go out into the community to shop and to access various buildings. Twenty-five grade 10 students from Linda Thompson's class at the Campbellford high school also spent some time trying to access facilities as physically challenged persons. Afterwards, everyone comes back and reports on their experiences and, more important, their feelings. Over the three years, this has resulted in many physical changes as well as attitudinal changes taking place around the town.

The grades 7 and 8 students at Hillcrest Public School had the chance to see and participate in recreational activities such as wheelchair basketball. As well, many booths were set up at the ARC Industries facility for people to access information and try out technical aids. Not only this week

but every day of our lives we must strive to break down the barriers facing the disabled community.

I was pleased to attend the community action awards presented by the minister here at Queen's Park. Although the minister did not make a formal statement in the House, I am sure she would join with me in congratulating Doreen Sharpe and the Campbellford More Able Than Disabled group, who are making us all more aware that creating access for people with disabilities is everyone's responsibility.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Last week I had the pleasure of attending ceremonies at Co-op and Sunoco gas stations in Grey that are now offering ethanol as an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional fuel. Stations in Markdale, Thornbury, Durham, Hanover and two in Owen Sound now provide fuel with up to 10% ethanol by volume, priced to compete with the premium gasolines. This is the first time that gasolines blended with ethanol have been made widely available in Ontario, and I urge the government to aid in their production and demand.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture and commodity groups will do what they can, because increased use of this fuel will only help the agricultural community. Ethanol blends benefit the environment as well, because they reduce carbon monoxide emissions by up to 30% and reduce ozone-forming gases, which cause breathing problems in humans and which damage plants.

Fuel ethanol can be produced from surplus and substandard grain crops and provides a further benefit in that the byproduct of the manufacturing process is a valuable high-protein animal feed. Because it is produced from crops, ethanol is a home-grown, renewable fuel which replaces imported, potentially cancer-causing chemicals in unleaded gas.

Members will therefore understand why I am proud that gas stations in Grey are active participants in this venture. It is my hope that more producers will offer this blend and that its use will become even more widespread.

HEALTH CARE

Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East): I often see my parliamentary colleagues in the legislative library browsing the New York Times, checking out the latest on uncontrollable deficits, racial tensions, urban decay and the economic stagnation at the state and federal levels in the United States. Without being smug, we can see the benefits of our progressive national and provincial approaches.

The most popular program and the one which best demonstrates the economic and social benefits of our philosophy is medicare. You can go anywhere in this province, from University Avenue to remote northern areas, to see people obtaining a broad range of essential services undeterred by cost and bureaucratic constraints, at considerably less societal cost and without the terrible risks of being uninsured.

I am sure that you and other members, Mr Speaker, must have been amazed by an editorial in the New York

Times last week entitled "Canada's No Medical Model." It is full of inaccuracies about both the Canadian and American systems. It claims, for instance, that our system saves money by restricting quick access to care. The reality is that millions of Americans find access to any care restricted by the possibility of financial insolvency.

It was my privilege last week to welcome to this House Dr David Himmelstein of the 5,000-strong Physicians for a National Health Program, who does see our single-payer system as the model for the reform they so urgently require.

The New York Times is the only publication I know of that has spawned a publication called Lies of Our Times, which addresses its systemic biases. No doubt this editorial will be further pulled apart in its columns by Americans who expect truth in media.

1340

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): According to local news reports, the St Catharines General Hospital, after eight years of planning and after approval to go to tender in December 1991, has been stopped in its tracks in its effort to provide much-needed expansion and improvement to its emergency care department.

The disappointment of medical staff and patients is obvious, as everyone had anticipated a genuine opportunity to improve medical services in our community. Instead it appears that the heavy hand of the Ministry of Health will unnecessarily delay this essential development by imposing conditions not required elsewhere in the province.

I call upon the Minister of Health to give the green light to this urgently required health care facility. In addition to this, I call upon the Minister of Health to approve the funding for the haemodialysis unit at St Catharines Hotel Dieu Hospital, where patients and dedicated staff face crowded conditions.

There are unsafe working conditions. There is a fire hazard. There is a cardiac arrest problem if someone in the unit has one. Someone has described going down a hallway that is only 58 feet long. In her wheelchair, she should be able to go the entire length of the hall in less than a minute. However, it took her 15 minutes to go the length of the hall and 20 minutes to come back up the hall. The reason is obvious: It's too crowded and the conditions are deplorable. I call upon the minister to give approval immediately to the improvement of that unit.

TEACHERS' CONTRACTS

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the London Board of Education and its secondary school teachers who voted last Wednesday to ratify a 1% salary increase for the 1992-93 school year contract.

Given the recent transfer payments and the current economic conditions, the teachers have shown responsible leadership and demonstrated their professionalism in accepting such a contract which is good for ratepayers, students, teachers and the school board. Even though the increase on salary rates is 1%, the real cost of the package

to ratepayers is 2.4%, still beyond the transfer payment rate of 1%.

The Minister of Education has forced many school boards to cut programs and lay off teachers because he continues to mandate such programs as junior kindergarten, destreaming and integration without providing 100% funding. I have asked the minister on numerous occasions to place a moratorium on provincially mandated programs unless the minister is willing to provide 100% funding.

Although the London board is the only board to have settled the 1992-93 contract with the secondary teachers, Nipigon-Red Rock elementary teachers and Halton elementary teachers recently accepted 1% settlements. These agreements are very gratifying to all parties involved and I encourage other teachers in the province entering negotiations to consider this precedent set by these teachers in London and elsewhere.

PEOPLE IN MOTION

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): I rise in the House today to inform all members of a very important event. The third annual People in Motion show will be taking place June 5 and 6 at the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Place, in Toronto.

As part of National Access Awareness Week, which runs from June 1 to June 7, People in Motion is in the forefront, highlighting services, technology and job opportunities for disabled persons. People in Motion is the largest exhibition of its kind in Canada. It offers a wide range of products and transportation options for the disabled community in the province of Ontario.

For the past three years, the Ministry of Transportation has been a major cosponsor of People in Motion, along with supporting sponsors like Volkswagen Canada in 1990 and the Ministry of Health in 1991. Since 1990, People in Motion has grown to more than 150 exhibitors and attendance is expected to grow to at least 10,000 for two days.

This year the Ministry of Transportation is proud to again be the sponsor of People in Motion, along with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. The opening ceremony will take place tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. I hope all members will take the time to visit People in Motion and participate in National Access Awareness Week.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): On May 28 last, the House leader for the official opposition (Mr Elston) rose on a point of order, pointing out that Speakers had been lenient in applying the rules governing responses to statements by ministers since the standing order changes in 1986. I must agree with the honourable member that this is indeed the case, as he so skilfully demonstrated to me last week. However, that does not change the basic rule that members are recognized in that period of time set aside to reply to the statements that have been made by ministers that day, even though in some cases, because of the skilful quality of members' replies, the Speaker is not always as quick as he might be in bringing the member to order. In other words, we are governed here by our own rules and

what the honourable member for Bruce has pointed out is that it does happen that members sometimes are successful in circumventing those rules without bringing harm to anyone.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: This has nothing to do with your current ruling, sir, but it does have to do with the conduct of business here in the House.

We have on a regular basis, as you know, met as House leaders to put together the list of materials we will be considering for the upcoming week. Yesterday we met to deal with the issue of business to be prosecuted over the next week or so and received a list of the intended prosecutions by this government.

Unfortunately, nothing was mentioned by the House leader of the government party about scheduling the Sunday shopping legislation for next week and for a vote on Thursday, as has been reported in the newspapers, and we felt—when I say “we,” I’ve had some contact from the House leader of the third party—it is at least unusual to ask us as House leaders to prepare our members to speak to the scheduled legislation that was put before us yesterday, and to prepare and ready ourselves to conduct our business, without reflecting any interest in voting on Sunday shopping and then going to the media and saying there would be both debate and voting on Sunday shopping next Thursday.

My complaint is not that we wish not to prosecute the legislation that was introduced just yesterday; it is that the member for Windsor-Riverside, in trying to be helpful to us as we prepare our members for their debates, did not lead us to advise our members that there would be time taken next week for debating the Sunday shopping legislation. I have to indicate that as a result of that, we are not, I think, able to see how we’re going to conduct all the business that was given to us yesterday in our meeting, plus the Sunday shopping legislation, without the government preventing us from fully carrying out our mandate as members.

I raise it not so much as—well, actually it’s raised a little bit as a complaint, because we are preparing in our role as opposition critics and otherwise to do the business that was listed, and we thought, sir, that we were going to be dealing with Sunday shopping at some point down the road. Now it is interjected through the media as being voted on next Thursday. I feel I have misled my caucus colleagues by indicating that the list of business was as I had laid it out on a piece of paper I gave to them in an informal meeting yesterday.

Mr Speaker, I ask for your advice to me, having just returned from the meeting with the government House leader yesterday morning, as to how we can prosecute our business if they are unprepared to tell us what direction they as a government are going to take in this House.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I will review the minutes from yesterday, but I think the House leader for the official opposition would agree that I did raise the issue of Sunday shopping in the meeting and I did indicate—

Mr Elston: We added it. It wasn't even on your list, David. We put it on there.

Hon Mr Cooke: Can I just complete my comments? I don't have the list in front of me, but I think I listed four or five pieces of legislation—Bills 118, 123, 165 and a few others—and indicated that Sunday shopping would follow those pieces of legislation, and we have two days next week that are opposition days. I did indicate that. I'll take a look at the minutes, and if the minutes don't properly reflect the discussions we had yesterday, they will be corrected.

1350

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the House leader of the official opposition and the government House leader, I appreciate very much the concern you've brought to my attention. You place the Speaker at a distinct disadvantage in that you are asking me to consider something which at this point is hypothetical. It is the practice in this House to announce the business for the coming week at the end of Thursday's business. We have not yet reached that point of the agenda.

Mr Elston: It's been given to us.

The Speaker: The Speaker is aware only of things which are dealt with in the House.

I understand full well the member's point and indeed, over the course of the afternoon, I will attempt to provide some guidance with respect to this event should it occur at the end of the day.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Mr Speaker, the government in its throne speech almost 20 months ago stated its intention to bring positive reform and renewal to the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

I want to say I am proud to stand in the chamber today and announce that I will be introducing this afternoon the culmination of months of work. There has been considerable consultation, redrafting and modification. The resulting new Labour Relations Act for the people of Ontario is legislation that is based on justice, fairness and jobs for Ontario.

We told the people of Ontario that we would consult on this legislation and consult we did. We have talked to over 300 groups, representing business, labour, organized workers, unorganized workers, women, immigrants, chambers of commerce, community groups and virtually every sector of our economy.

We talked with thousands of people and they told us frankly what they thought of the proposed legislation. We have responded by making over 20 changes to reflect those concerns. Ten of those changes are significant and four relate specifically to the issue of replacement workers.

The result, as you will see this afternoon, is a piece of legislation that will bring about better workplaces, better for people who work in them, better for the employers through streamlined procedures and better for the province as a whole, because it recognizes the fundamental changes our economy is going through in the 1990s.

When looking at this legislation in the days and weeks ahead, it is important to keep in mind that Ontario's workplaces are changing.

Today, 61% of all women in Ontario work outside the home. There are hundreds of thousands of new immigrant workers and the number of part-time workers in our economy has almost doubled since the act was last significantly updated 15 years ago.

The province's economy is undergoing fundamental structural changes. It is experiencing a dramatic shift from an industrial to a service- and information-based economy, and there are strategic alliances forming through employee participation in management that are changing the very nature of the relationship between the business community and employees.

These new economic realities are reflected in these changes. Now more than ever, business and workers must work together to become more competitive in the global economy. Now more than ever, we need a new alliance that not only sees the bottom line as important but also the dignity and values that workers bring to a finished product or to a balance sheet.

I want to make it clear that meaningful worker participation is fundamental to Ontario's economic growth. Through that participation, we will see increased competitiveness and productivity. Ontario has an educated, skilled and motivated workforce that we can all be proud of. We aim to make that workforce even more efficient and effective.

Let me describe the essence of this legislation in a few concise phrases: (1) This act is aimed at responding to the new workplaces and changing workforces of this decade. (2) The legislation reflects this government's confidence in working people and their contribution to economic renewal. (3) We are aiming to reduce conflict by reducing confrontation on picket lines and hostilities that can sometimes linger for years. (4) We are streamlining the process in order to alleviate costly delays and assist the collective bargaining process, which can become cumbersome and time-consuming.

Our goal is to promote more dialogue, discussion and problem-solving between workers and employers.

This will put Ontario on the cutting edge of cooperation and innovation when the proposed legislation becomes law. On that point I say to the people of Ontario that we are taking labour relations out of the 1970s and into the 1990s in this province.

The legislation governs the relationship between unionized workers and employers in most of the private and part of the public sector. It sets out the rules under which employees can form unions, prohibits unfair practices by both unions and employers, establishes the rules for bargaining contracts and creates procedures for handling disagreements between unions and employers.

But even more important, it sets the tone for employer-employee relationships throughout every sector in Ontario. It plots a course for a more open workplace, one which is more responsive and democratic.

I ask those of you who have been vocal in your opposition to this forthcoming legislation to assess it with an open mind. There is a genuine need to accept that change

is necessary and inevitable and that change, although at times disconcerting, is more often than not a good thing. The new legislation is a good thing for Ontario and I am confident that over time that will be proven.

We have tackled some difficult issues with this legislation, issues that needed to be addressed. But we have done so with the knowledge that resolving the current inequities in the system will make labour disputes less confrontational.

I refer to the use of replacement workers during strikes and lockouts. Ministry and independent research has shown that the use of replacement workers prolongs disputes and creates an environment of confrontation that lasts long after a settlement has been reached. We have tackled the issue with balance in mind.

We will be introducing another bill this month with respect to the relationship between construction unions operating in Ontario and their internationally based parent unions. Construction unions in Ontario have expressed a desire for greater control of their own affairs. We are prepared to help fulfil that desire through amendments to come shortly.

As well, last January the government established a task force to deal with the concerns of the agricultural community with respect to the current exclusion of agricultural workers from the Labour Relations Act. This group represented all sectors of the agricultural industry, unions and government. The task force report will be released shortly. I am pleased with the cooperation that those involved have demonstrated. Changes relating to agricultural workers will reflect the task force report. We will continue to work with them.

The people of Ontario have long expressed their desire for business, labour and government to work towards a new era of prosperity and cooperation, and that is the spirit of this new legislation.

It is not a matter of choosing between jobs or justice. It's all about having both, having the justice of fair, balanced labour legislation that brings greater dialogue to the workplace, and in so doing making Ontario economically stronger.

The new Ontario Labour Relations Act has at its heart jobs and justice for all of Ontario. I look forward to a new era in employee-employer relationships and continuing the process of building Ontario's economy through its strongest resource, its people.

1400

RESPONSES

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): The legislation that is to be introduced today will not create one new job in this province. It will not put one unemployed person back to work. It will not stimulate one new investment in Ontario.

Yesterday the Premier said we cannot put walls around Ontario. Today, sadly, the walls have gone up. Our response to the introduction of this legislation is one single, compelling question: Why now? Why are we going to

spend the next weeks and months debating this legislation, the government's number one priority, while the economy of this province continues to crumble around us?

We keep reminding the Premier and his government of just how difficult our economic situation is: The 558,000 people in this province who are without jobs, the 18% unemployment rate among our young people, the fact that we are experiencing plant closures at the rate of one every three days, the fact that in the months of March and April more than 1,000 Ontarians a day lost their jobs. How bad does it have to get before this government realizes that it can't keep marching ahead with its old ideas and its old agenda?

This government did say at one point that it understood how difficult our economic situation is. In the speech from the throne, in fact, the government said, "Economic renewal must be our number one priority." It even went on to say that the basis of a sound economy is a flourishing business sector, but quite clearly it's labour legislation that has always been the government's number one priority, and we see the proof of that today. The words in the throne speech obviously meant nothing. Yet we wonder, if this was so fundamental to this government's plans, why there was not even a mention of it in its election platform in the Agenda for People.

This government has constantly painted anyone who voiced any concerns about proposed reforms to the Labour Relations Act as being anti-worker and anti-union. That is just simply not the case. You have to wonder how defensible the government's position is when it won't tolerate even the expression of legitimate concern. Our concern has always been and will always be the disastrous economic situation the province faces and the price real people are paying for the economic situation we're in right now.

The government seems to believe this is a short-term recession, that it's going to end soon and the world will go on as it did before. The reality is that it's not just a short-term recession. We're experiencing some very fundamental changes in our economy, and it's not good enough to just hold your breath and hope at the end it's going to be over.

We need action that responds to the immediate, urgent crisis of the day. We do not need legislation that is simply going to polarize labour and management at a time when we need cooperation more than ever before. We need legislation that is going to deal with the kinds of concerns people have and not put more people out of work. We need to have action that is going to make sure we keep people working and put unemployed people back to work again.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): To carry on with the response as indicated by my leader, there is no question that the announcement made by the Minister of Labour today does not create one job. It does not create any hope, any optimism for the many people in this province who are looking for those particular aspects.

This legislation is a continuation of what this government has embarked upon for the last year and a half. They have stage-managed a consultation process which has without doubt excluded hundreds if not thousands of people who want to share their thoughts, their concerns, their

suggestions with the minister. The minister and the ministry and the stage-managed approach that this government has taken have excluded, have in fact locked the doors on, the concerns, the suggestions and the opinions of many thousands of Ontarians, Ontario workers and people who are looking for some optimism in this province.

We are going to be looking very closely at this particular legislation. We are going to be taking a look at what, for instance, the provisions mean with respect to replacement workers. How do they benefit workers, for instance, in our automotive industry where, according to these suggestions, if one of the 3,000 suppliers goes on strike you effectively shut down the automotive industry in this province? We ask, what does that do for the workers of this province? We're going to be looking at those and other provisions and we will be suggesting changes for improvement.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): The number one priority for people in our province is job creation, not labour law reform. We know governments cannot wave a magic wand to create new jobs, but governments can create an economic climate of confidence to stimulate job creation.

These reforms do nothing to restore consumer, investor or business confidence, and they will not create one new job. These reforms will not contribute to economic prosperity in this province. For every one step forward that this government takes, it appears that actions such as this take us three steps back. These reforms will destroy the delicate balance between business and labour. They will lead to further polarization.

Minister, you talked about consultation, you talked about listening, but there was no meaningful consultation. Everyone was forced to listen and respond to the union-driven agenda. What you've done here is only modify your union-driven agenda.

During the past year this government has constantly mismanaged this entire issue. You have never been able to demonstrate that there was a need for the radical overhaul of the Ontario Labour Relations Act. You have never done an economic impact study.

These proposals are going to be the most comprehensive labour legislation in North America. This government is out of step. You are raising tremendous barriers around Ontario which are going to discourage investment and prevent new job creation in this province.

You have not made changes today; you have only tinkered with your own union-driven agenda, but the net result is the same. It's going to cost workers jobs, it's going to delay the creation of new jobs, and you've forgotten that the most important right of a worker in this province is the right to a job.

People of this province are desperate for a plan for economic renewal. They do not want an agenda for union power. What this legislation does is shift the balance of power. This is obvious when we take a look at the role of the Ontario Labour Relations Board. It has been altered from an impartial referee to an advocate for unions. We don't have this in place in other jurisdictions.

Also, if we take a look at the replacement worker provision, this will still effectively give unions the power to shut down a plant during a labour dispute and can close the plant down if they can't fulfil their contractual obligations.

You've eliminated petitions but there is still no opportunity for the individual to participate in a secret ballot. You have increased the rights and powers for unions without giving them any accompanying responsibility.

The only good news today is that instead of drowning under 12 feet of water in this province we're only going to drown under 10 feet.

1410

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): Let's make this clear: This is nothing but a cynical payback to the big union bosses who supported the NDP during the last election. All this will do is increase the powers of unions. It will not fill the empty factories. It won't create one job. What it will do is put the bureaucrats in charge of the workplace, raise the cost of doing business, restrict individual rights and cost the people of Ontario jobs.

Don't get too comfortable over there, because I want to tell you very clearly: Stay alive till 1995 because we're going to rip these provisions out when we come back to power in Ontario. Don't get too comfortable, because they're coming out in 1995. Stay alive till 1995. This is nothing but a payback to the big unions. The fight is on. Every business in this province is going to fight these union bosses on this thing. This is nothing but Bob White's agenda. I say to the people out there today: We are going to fight this.

The workers are behind us: 83% of the people, including the unionized workers, say this is a bad piece of legislation. We're going to work to make sure it gets scrapped, and when we're elected in 1995 we're going to pull every last one of these provisions right out.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. You'll all be pleased to know that it is time for oral questions.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like to bring to your attention that today a major announcement was made by the Minister of the Environment on—

Interjection: That's not a point of order.

Mr Stockwell: It is so.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Every member in this House has the opportunity to raise a point of order if he or she believes there is a point of order, and I will listen to each member who does that.

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Perhaps it would be in order if you were to request members who stand on points of order to initially indicate the order point they are making in the rules so that you will know what they're referring to.

The Speaker: To the Minister of Colleges and Universities: All members may recall that on an earlier occasion I had requested that members, if they believed they had either a point of order or a point of privilege, try to succinctly place their point of order or privilege immediately upon gaining the recognition of the Speaker. I will now ask the member for Etobicoke West to state his point of order.

Mr Stockwell: My privileges as a member have been breached because today the Minister of the Environment announced 57 long-term dump sites—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Durham West is asked to come to order. The member for Etobicoke West will please address his point of order to the Speaker.

Mr Stockwell: I would like to be very clear. I think this is a clear breach of my privileges, Mr Speaker. Today it was announced there would be 57 long-term dump sites in and around the greater Toronto area. This minister has made the sites available. She has issued press releases. She has sent it to interested parties. In fact I didn't even get this until just before I came in here at 1:30 today. Mr Speaker, this was not announced in the House. This is a very important notice.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat? The member should know there is nothing in the standing orders which compels a minister of the crown to make statements in the House. There is a period of time set aside during routine proceedings where ministers may, if they wish, announce government policy. They are not obliged to do it in the House, although they are encouraged both by this Speaker and by previous Speakers to take that route.

It is time for oral questions, and the Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier, and I would like to come back to our one central question, and that is, why now? I know the Premier does realize just how desperate our economic situation is, and surely he realizes that this legislation being introduced today is not going to create any new jobs, that it's not going to put any unemployed people back to work and that in fact it's going to discourage the investment that would hopefully create some new jobs in this province.

I would ask the Premier to tell this House why, as the economy truly does crumble around us, he has decided to bring in this bill now rather than address the very urgent needs that this province faces?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The member asked the same question basically that she's asked on other occasions, and it's based on the premise which is the historic premise that seems now to be the battle cry of a party which 102 years ago, as I pointed out yesterday, was prepared to accept the fact that workers had rights, that those are important, and that those rights don't stand in the way of progress, don't

stand in the way of jobs and don't stand in the way of employment.

We reject entirely the notion that what we are doing in terms of allowing people the right to organize in any way discourages investment, in any way discourages people from putting their money into this province and creating more jobs. The Leader of the Opposition takes the same line that Liberals in opposition have traditionally taken, that whenever they're not in government the sky is falling and the world is falling apart.

We've come through a serious recession; we all know that. We also know that several major companies: Ford, Chrysler, A. O. Smith, Kelsey's Restaurants, KeepRite, Eaton Yale, SHL Systemhouse, Nabisco Brands, Gates Canada and Xerox Canada have all in recent months made substantial investments in this province. We know those investments are going to produce more jobs. We know there's evidence all over the place that investment is coming to this province and that it is coming from those very companies that even now have a highly unionized workforce and others don't.

I would only say to the honourable member, why now? Because there's no better time than the present to create a stronger climate for labour relations, no better time than the present to create a stronger sense of the need for balance between workers and employers and the need to create a true partnership in the workplace of Ontario in the 1990s. That's why.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier surely has not been talking to the 558,000 people who are unemployed or the 18% of the young people in this province who won't have jobs this summer. They will tell the Premier, if he is talking to them, that indeed, Premier, for them the sky is falling. How can you talk about coming through a recession when we're seeing those kinds of unemployment numbers?

We continue to ask questions that the Premier and his government refused to answer until they had tabled their legislation so we will keep coming back and asking the questions. We still do not understand what the problem was that was so urgent that it necessitated this legislation being the number one priority, rather than dealing with the concerns of the unemployed people of this province. As we understand it, in 1991 there were only 95 work stoppages in Ontario and 95% of business-labour negotiations were settled without a strike.

Mr Speaker, I would ask the Premier, what is the pressing problem that this Premier sees as the reason for making this legislation his number one priority?

1420

Hon Mr Rae: This legislation is obviously of importance to the government, but I would say to the member that the number one priority of this government remains the creation of a positive climate that will allow the economy to grow, the government to work more efficiently and business, labour and government to work more cooperatively now than ever before.

When the member stands in her place and says that 95% of labour negotiations were settled without a strike, she herself is then admitting that the replacement worker

provisions, for example, are frankly—I would say this to the honourable member: She knows this full well and I suspect there are many members of her caucus who would agree with this privately as well, if not publicly, this is no huge, big deal. It's simply a modest change intended to create a sense of balance and to remedy those situations when there are disputes which could be resolved differently than they're now being resolved.

The Labour Relations Act has not been reformed for 15 years. We're heading into an economy in which cooperation and partnership are going to be the order of the day, in which we want to make sure both partners feel secure in their ability to be able to talk to one another and don't feel that their right to be there is constantly being questioned and being attacked and undermined as is implied in some of the actions being taken. That's why now and that's why the government is taking the direction it is.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier says this is not their only priority, that they are concerned about the economy. It seems to reflect back to those very fine words in the throne speech in which they said in such ringing tones that economic renewal would have to be their number one priority. From our side of the House we don't see any action that matches those words. All we see is the introduction of labour legislation on which this House and this province is going to spend the next weeks and months of its energy and attention.

I wonder if the Premier does not understand that this legislation is going to involve business, labour and government, the groups that need to be cooperating, in a protracted warfare over the proposals they're presenting today. Does he not understand that he should be bringing in the kinds of proposals that would encourage labour, business and government to be working together to make economic renewal their number one priority as it should be for this government?

Hon Mr Rae: I disagree with the member and say that's exactly what we're doing. Perhaps I could respond to her question with a simple reply. If she's saying this is not the right moment to bring in the legislation, perhaps I could ask her, is she telling us that the Liberal Party which was in office for five years—years in which there was growth in the economy, we all recognize that—is she saying that was the time to do it or is she saying five years from now will be the time to do it?

If she's opposed to the legislation, let her at least come out and say which of the specific provisions she objects to rather than saying that somehow this doesn't happen to be the right moment. There is never a right moment for the Liberal Party to make progressive change unless their feet are held to the fire as they were between 1985 and 1987 and between 1963 and 1968 in Ottawa. Those are the only moments that the Liberal Party has found it. We decided to take this action and you will never be there to do it because we're here to do it right now.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier keeps talking about the right time, yet even as he talks about the right time he keeps taking us back—back to 1985, back 102 years ago

in time. I want to talk about the right time for this legislation today.

Quite frankly, I don't think the 30 people who were laid off at Babcock and Wilcox in Cambridge, one of the companies that was heralded in the same throne speech in which the government said economic renewal was going to be its number one priority, will actually think these reforms are a good way to bring back their jobs. I don't think the 250 people down the road in Brantford, who were told last Friday that they too would be out of work, would be too enthusiastic about the government's initiatives either.

It is reality that plants like these are closing at the rate of one every three days. I would just ask the Premier again: With 557,000 people unemployed in this province, how will these proposals help put these people back to work? How will they help to ensure there aren't more plant closures and more people being laid off?

Hon Mr Rae: If the member is now buying into the line, if she's saying now that she's simply buying the line of the billboards and becoming a kind of kinder and gentler billboard in this Legislature in terms of what she's trying to say on behalf of the National Citizens' Coalition, let me say to the honourable member very directly in reply that there may well be situations when by improving the bargaining relationship between employers and employees we can in fact ensure that employees are better protected when it comes to layoffs, that they're better protected when it comes to closures. There will be plant closures and there will be plant openings. We are looking forward to more plant openings this year, just as we faced a very tough year of plant closures last year.

I would say to the honourable member that if she is simply buying the line that workers, if they even try to organize or if they even try to form a union, are somehow in and of themselves discouraging investment and stopping people from investment, she is buying into a line that no other political government in this province has bought into since the 1920s and that even Sir Oliver Mowat couldn't accept 102 years ago when he was campaigning in this province in an election campaign in 1890 and said, as I would remind you, "If there is antagonism, my sympathy and that of my colleagues is with the masses rather than with the classes."

We have a Liberal Party that has simply decided to forget its best traditions when it comes to dealing with the rights of working people in Ontario.

Mrs McLeod: There goes the Premier again, talking about the right line for today. I'm not buying any lines. I'm just asking questions and I'm just talking about this government's priorities. I'm trying to get past the rhetoric and the ideology to talk about people.

I can't believe that the 115 laid-off workers at Abitibi-Price in Iroquois Falls think this is the right legislation at the right moment, or that the 99 workers at Campbell Mines in Red Lake who were laid off last month would think this should have been the highest priority for this government, or the 280 laid-off workers at Domtar in Red Rock.

If I can move from the throne speech to the government budget document, there's a line in here on page 9 in which the government says, "Private investment is key to the creation of secure jobs in Ontario." Given that statement, I would ask the Premier: What do today's proposals do to encourage that confidence and that private investment that will create jobs and might put some of these people back to work?

Hon Mr Rae: Very clearly what this legislation does is demonstrate a commitment to partnership. What this legislation does is demonstrate a commitment on the part of this government to people, to business and labour working together. I would say to the member that I would like her and I would challenge her—if she wants to go to the workers at Abitibi-Price and to the workers in Red Rock and to the workers that she's mentioned at Domtar and other places and ask them whether they think that taking away rights or somehow preventing people from organizing is going to add a single job in the economy or is going to do anything to help them, then I suggest the honourable member would be in for quite an argument.

She is trying to put unemployed against people who are working. She's trying to say that those who have a job and are organized are somehow creating the climate of unemployment. I would say to her that if anything creates a climate of dissent in the province, it's precisely the kind of argument she's trying to use today.

Mrs McLeod: If I follow the words that are attributed to the Premier in today's media, I get a sense that his definition of partnership between labour and management is to ask business to lay off any criticisms of their proposals so that they can encourage that kind of constructive working relationship.

Yesterday the Premier called for a particular kind of partnership as he introduced the Sunday shopping legislation which we all did welcome. He called on the retail sector to respond in kind by creating jobs for all of those unemployed young people whom we on this side of the House are so concerned about. So let me just ask the Premier once again: What will these particular proposals being presented today do to encourage and to allow the tourism sector and the retail sector to be competitive so that they can create the jobs for those young people who so desperately need them this summer?

1430

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say to the honourable member, is she saying the government should now repeal pay equity laws? Is she arguing we shouldn't be introducing employment equity?

Interjections.

Hon Mr Rae: No, I want to ask her directly. Is she saying there should no environmental laws? Is she buying into the line that somehow the fact that people have a right to organize—is she saying that Ford of Canada is uncompetitive? If Ford of Canada is uncompetitive, why does it invest \$1.5 billion in the economy? They're organized. Is she saying that those companies are somehow not organized, that they're not able to do it?

I say to the honourable member that the assumption of her question is one that has its roots in centuries long gone by. She would understand and know full well that it's by building a stronger relationship between management and employee that we provide the most competitive, the most cooperative and the best possible climate for partnership in the province of Ontario. To suggest somehow that employees who are organized are contributing to their firms being uncompetitive is to fly in the face of industrial experience in this province over the past 150 years.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Minister of Labour. This is a sad day for workers in this province. Today is the day this government sold out the thousands and thousands and thousands of Ontario workers who are looking for jobs. No matter how you've dressed it up, no matter how well you have packaged it today, this is still the same—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Can the member take her seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for Waterloo North.

Mrs Witmer: No matter how you've dressed it up, no matter how well you have packaged it today, this is still the same union-driven agenda that contains not one proposal from the business community, and the bottom line is still the same: This legislation will kill jobs. Minister, have you any impact studies or evidence to prove otherwise?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think it might be advisable for the member for Waterloo North to wait and read the actual legislation, but it seems to me there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that this legislation is going to kill the jobs she's talking about. We already have a situation, with the heavy job loss over the last two years in this province under the current existing relations, and one of the things we need very clearly is to change the atmosphere and to develop a cooperative and not a confrontational approach to the business community. That's exactly what we're trying to do and I predict it will mean more, not less jobs.

Mrs Witmer: It's unbelievable that no impact study has been done. This government has been unable to demonstrate this past year the need for this reform. They have not done one impact study. They have not taken a look at how many thousands of jobs this is going to kill. Mr Minister, why was there no impact study done? What were you afraid of, the results?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I want to tell the member that there's absolutely nothing I'm afraid of. I think we're taking the right approach in what we're doing with this legislation.

I want to say also that this government has conducted a lot of consultation with many of the people who will be involved and has listened to their input. We have also had the reports by Noah Meltz of the University of Toronto, who has indicated that the approach we're taking could be a very positive one in terms of an improved labour relations climate in the province, which could lead to more

productivity and a better chance for workers and their plants to survive.

Mrs Witmer: There have been no economic impact studies done. We know that workers have been thrown out of work and will continue to be thrown out of work. We know this new legislation is going to facilitate unionization. It's going to increase the union power base. If you haven't done an economic impact study on job loss, Minister, did you do an economic impact study to determine how many more people will join unions this year and next?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I can tell the honourable member that we certainly weren't looking at an impact study that would tell us how many more people would join unions. I think that's almost impossible to figure out.

What we have done is said that some of the things we want to do are to make it easier for workers who are now denied the ability to access or to involve themselves in a union to be able to organize, and see if we can't change the atmosphere between management and labour so that we can have a more productive economy in Ontario.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): My question is to the Premier and it's regarding the union bosses' welfare act. I have a quote from Project Economic Growth. Mr Dale Kerry of the More Jobs Coalition said: "The proposed legislation is imbalanced, out of step with other jurisdictions in North America. It would put a wall up around Ontario." Let's face it, Mr Premier, this is nothing but a cynical payback to the big labour unions that supported you in the election campaign. Is paying those big labour union bosses back really worth costing jobs for Ontario?

Hon Mr Rae: I'm not going to respond to the assumption of the question because frankly it's so preposterous. I would only say to him very clearly that if you look at the way in which the economy has changed in the last 15 or 20 years—the number of women who've come into the workforce, the number of part-time workers who've come into the workforce, the expansion in the service industry that's taken place—the idea that one should not look at our labour legislation and try to reform it, since it has not been reformed for 15 years, recognizing there are a number of women and new Canadians who have not had similar access to organizing as the previous generation of workers, to suggest that is not a proper thing for a government to try to do, I just don't agree with.

I'm not surprised that the Tory party, in its efforts to move to the right of even the Reform Party, is now adopting the kind of rhetoric that it is, but I would say to him very directly that if he looks at these reforms and the business community looks at these reforms, they are perfectly in line with what is going on in the rest of Canada. They have a lot to do with trying to improve the climate of labour relations and make sure that a new generation of Canadians has the same access to historic bargaining rights.

Perhaps it's worth pointing out that it was his predecessor governments—and I hardly recognize that tradition in anything I've heard from that party in the last year and a half—which put forward labour legislation. We're carrying on in that fine tradition in this province with respect to moving things ahead.

Mr Carr: We are going to have one heck of a mess to clean up after you people are booted out in 1995; I say that.

Some other reports have come in from the All Business Coalition. This is a quote from Paul Nykanen: "The bill will have a corrosive effect on the economic recovery in Ontario. It does nothing to encourage job creation or investment in Ontario and cannot in any way be described as balanced legislation."

If you were really interested in looking at it, Mr Premier, you would look at proposals from the business community and the labour groups, not just from labour. I ask you this: Why didn't one proposal in these proposed labour changes come from any of the business groups? Why didn't you include them if you were going to make changes in Ontario?

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Hon Mr Rae: I just say to the honourable member that I couldn't disagree more, in terms of what we've done. We've looked, for example, at the importance of productivity in terms of the preamble. We've looked at establishing stronger working relationships in terms of—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Preamble? Come on.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Preamble? Are you writing the Constitution? The preamble will have about as much affect as your social charter.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: Yesterday one of the members was saying she was unhappy with the preamble, so we changed it. Now they're saying, "What did you change the preamble for?" There are some people over there who will never be happy. Really, one reaches that conclusion after a certain period of time. I rest my case.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): Not even your own party is happy, Bob.

Hon Mr Rae: Oh yes, they are.

Mr Carr: The fact of the matter is that this has been a labour agenda driven by the big labour bosses. There's now a slogan that the business community has. It's "Stay alive until '95." We want to be perfectly clear in our position. Unlike the Liberals, who say this is a bad time, we want to be very clear. When we're elected in 1995 we will repeal this legislation written by Bob White. We want to make it very clear.

This recession has been an Ontario-led recession; 80% of the jobs lost during this recession have been in this province, Mr Premier. How much more do you think Ontario can take of your pieces of legislation?

Hon Mr Rae: To quote Jack Benny, I'm thinking about that one.

I would only say to the honourable member that I think that if you put this legislation in perspective and consider the kind of consultation we've gone through—and I would ask the members of the Conservative Party and the members of the Liberal Party to really reflect on what actually is being proposed and look at the traditions of labour law and collective bargaining in this province—for any political

party in this province to say it is simply going to wipe out any advance with respect to labour legislation in terms of its ability to allow people to work together is not a terribly contemporary attitude to the need to help management and labour work together in an effective way.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Premier. Mr Premier, our party has asked yourself and the Minister of Labour on numerous occasions to let us know how many jobs you expect this legislation to create. I think it's fair to say that the type of response we have received is one where you and the Minister of Labour have responded with a degree of scorn to those who have created those types of proposals, done that type of work and conducted those types of studies.

Will you on this day finally reveal your intention? Will you let members of this Legislature and the people of Ontario know just what your government expects will be the impact on job creation in this province as a result of that legislation announced by the Minister of Labour today?

Hon Mr Rae: I would just say to the member that the government is genuinely of the belief, and I really am of the belief, that when all is said and done and when the time comes to really look at this thing and to assess its impact and what it is all about, it will help to produce a more positive climate, along with a number of other policies that are in place now and along with what we see happening generally in the economy.

The Treasurer has already indicated in the budget very clearly that we see 1992 as being a year of recovery and growth. We hope it will be a year in which the unemployment numbers will start to come down. We believe they will. It's a year we hope will lead to a more sustained recovery in 1993 and 1994. I believe a more positive climate with respect to labour relations will contribute in a positive way to that and to the kind of recovery we are now beginning, thank goodness, to see some positive signs of.

Mr Offer: I'm sure the Premier understands, as we all expect, that with any particular legislative approach or introduction of legislation we will all want to know what the response, what the reaction, what the result will be in terms of job creation. That is one of the most major issues that affects people in this province today.

I'm sure you also understand that by jumping headstrong into legislation as important as what you have indicated today you would need to have impact studies conducted, because failing to do so would, I suggest, be both reckless and irresponsible to the many hundreds of thousands of people still out of jobs and who have in fact lost jobs. Can and will the Premier assure this House that he has performed those impact studies, and will he table the results of those studies today?

Hon Mr Rae: I think the minister has already referred to the preliminary view of someone like Noah Meltz at the Centre for Industrial Relations. I would say to him that the overall impact in terms of jobs of this measure has to be taken in the context of all the other measures that are in place with respect to employment equity, pay equity and the tax changes we made that were very well received by

the private sector. We've had indications they are leading to some increased investment.

We have some positive signs with respect to major employers: the Bell Canada-Northern Telecom announcement, the Ford announcement I have already referred to, the Chrysler announcement that is going to lead to the opening of the plants in Brampton, the Mitsubishi announcement there as well. There are some very positive signs at work in the economy.

I know it is seen as being the historical role of the opposition to paint things far gloomier than they really are. No one on this side is underestimating the difficulty and the tough time we have been through, but to somehow suggest the Ontario economy is not recovering and not getting stronger day by day is to fly in the face of the facts we're all beginning to see around us.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I have a question to the Minister of the Environment. First, I find it unbelievable you should make an announcement today concerning some 57 dump sites in the greater Toronto area and not have the courage to come to this Legislature and announce in this House exactly what your intentions are for the future garbage problems in the GTA—absolutely unacceptable.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): You have it wrong.

Mr Stockwell: The member for Durham West is suggesting I have it wrong. I remember you told me I had it wrong when you said you weren't to get any dump sites. Now you have five, so I wonder who's wrong.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member direct his question through the Chair.

Mr Stockwell: On November 5, 1987, you stated: "I would like the minister"—then-minister Jim Bradley—"to give this House a categorical assurance that no additional landfill will be approved in the region of Durham or anywhere else in this province without a complete environmental assessment that would allow all the various alternatives to be examined and to be exposed." It is interesting the minister would refer to exposing all alternatives when in Bill 143 there is no complete environmental assessment. No region can even consider a site outside its boundary. My question is: Why have you deprived the people, the very same people you made this promise to, of the rights you advocated some five years ago?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): Let me make it very clear to this member and to all members of the Legislature that I did not make an announcement this morning with respect to potential landfill sites within the greater Toronto area. In accordance with the legislation of Bill 143 that has been adopted by this House, an agency that was created to be a crown corporation, I followed through on the policies set down in that legislation by my ministry and made an announcement with respect to a list of potential landfill sites. That's what happened this morning.

Mr Stockwell: First, that wasn't the question. The question was: Why have you changed your tune from five years ago? Second, for this minister to fob this decision off on nameless, faceless bureaucrats is the height of hypocrisy from when she sat on this side of the House and chastised the then minister for his indecision and inaction. The question to the minister stands. Why can you not offer the people of this province the same security you insisted on some five years ago?

I have a quote from the member for Durham West on election night. On September 6 the honourable member said, "We have a population that has asked for a credible government that will really listen to the people." He got elected on this issue.

Why have you fobbed this off on faceless, nameless bureaucrats who carry the can for your inaction and incompetence? Fifty-seven sites; 57 communities. You've done away with the not-in-my-backyard theory simply because, Madam Minister, you are putting a garbage dump in everybody's backyard.

Hon Mrs Grier: Nothing could be further from the case. The member has been in this House long enough to have heard the debate on Bill 143. He knows precisely what kind of process has been put in place, an open and fair process that will lead to the assessment of landfill sites under the Environmental Assessment Act and will mean that those 57 sites that have been identified by the Interim Waste Authority will be reduced to three preferred sites, one in Durham, one in Peel and one in York-Metro, a year from now. That is very different from the process that was in place before we became the government, a flawed process that was not open, fair and under the Environmental Assessment Act.

I have not changed any tune. I and the member for Durham West have followed through on the commitments we gave in 1990.

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DAY CARE

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Minister of Community and Social Services has a response to a question asked earlier by the member for Burlington South.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): Yesterday the member asked a question which implied that the ministry is not interested in receiving presentations from parents during the current child care consultation. I was deeply concerned, so I looked into the matter.

I want to tell him that indeed the person he mentioned in the House was put on a waiting list to give a presentation, because more than 80 groups or individuals had asked to speak at the Barrie consultation. We were only able to accommodate 27 presentations in total. Those were chosen in equal groups from the various interest groups who had presented themselves.

Mrs Till had a number of offers in terms of how she could participate. She was offered a chance to participate with the three major parent groups who presented. She is a member of Kids First, a group of parents who gave a 20-minute presentation and presented essentially what she

wanted. She was encouraged to send in a written submission and she was also informed of additional consultation dates. Mrs Till did speak during the open period that was left. She had the opportunity both to speak and to ask questions, and as well she had a lengthy discussion with one of my staff following the consultation.

In all, 110 formal presentations have been given by parents during this consultation and many more in the informal sessions.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): The questions raised yesterday had to do with the closing of day care spaces in Barrie, the outlandish and inappropriate statements of the minister's parliamentary assistant, with outright threats to parents and representatives of organizations. You have chosen to respond only to this portion of the question.

I would only say this, Madam Minister: If you're so convinced by what your staff now advise you, why is it that York region has immediately called for public hearings in order to allow parents the right and the opportunity to be heard on this sensitive, important issue involving their children? If York region councillors felt it was that important, that your process was so lacking that they've called for additional public hearings, I think your briefing notes are sadly lacking.

I respect that you have undertaken an examination of this case, but frankly, Mrs Till was assured she was on the docket. She called early in April, and it was the 11th-hour notice of her being asked not to speak. She could have made alternative arrangements to go to one of your other consultation processes, and that is what your staff memo should have indicated to you.

Hon Mrs Boyd: Obviously the member has different information than my staff member got directly from this person.

Mr Jackson: I talked to Mrs Till yesterday.

Hon Mrs Boyd: So did my staff member in Barrie.

In reference to the other questions, I did answer his question about the closure of centres. In reference to his question about my parliamentary assistant, again, my parliamentary assistant recalls the conversation with the person mentioned by the member, but quite denies that the tone or the threats the member alleges were made.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): We've heard, and it's been brought up today, that the Minister of the Environment, although she claims she did it through another organization, released 57 potential sites in and around the greater Metropolitan Toronto area. Ironically, on the first official day of the Earth Summit you paid tribute to, at the very same time, you know very well that you have backtracked on so many of the promises that you made when you sat as critic for the Ministry of the Environment and throughout the 1990 election campaign.

The fact of the matter is that right from the start you poisoned the process in terms of what would happen with York by saying right up front that Metro's garbage was going to York. Further to that, people are shocked to learn

that the NDP government, those great protectors of the environment, are recommending and allowing a potential landfill site in the Rouge Valley.

My question requires merely a yes or no answer. Can the minister tell the House whether she supports the placing of a garbage dump on lands in the Rouge Valley? Yes or no, Minister.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): This member has been through all the hearings, all the debate about the bill that put in place the process. A fair and open process has been put in place. Criteria have been discussed with the public over the last eight months. As a result of that process, a list of potential landfill sites has been released today by the Interim Waste Authority. Over the next year, further criteria, further evaluation, will occur until preferred sites are selected. That is the process that was put in place by my policies, and I take full responsibility for that. But having put those policies in place, having put that legislation in place, having created the organization, it has to be a fair, open environmental assessment. Then the decision will be made.

Mr McClelland: The fact of the matter remains, Minister, that one of the sites is in the Rouge Valley. That fact remains, and you can try to dance out of it as well as you like without addressing the answer directly. You fail to respond because the fact of the matter is that you, by what you are doing, are allowing the Rouge Valley to be on the table as a potential site. You and you alone bear the responsibility for that.

When the member for Etobicoke West put a question to you, you said that you stick to your tune. Well, try this tune on. There are a lot of people in this same boat now, 57 groups. "No dump in the Rouge." Do you remember those words? Perhaps you'll want to turn a little bit to your right. There is a gentleman sitting beside you, the Premier of the province. These were his words on December 11, 1990: "No dump in the Rouge." People believed him then on that issue, as they did on many other issues which have certainly proven what value that is in terms of commitments made. Once again, Minister, you and your government have gone back on your word and on your commitment. The Minister of the Environment has got to be embarrassed about this.

I conclude with this. Do you still sing this same tune? The words of your Premier: "No dump in the Rouge." Here's another one. Here's a dandy little tune for you to remember: "There are no plans of any kind by this government to use the Rouge Valley as a dump, none at all." How about that tune? How does that play?

Hon Mrs Grier: It plays very well. If the member will go back and look at the criteria that were established by the Interim Waste Authority for the selection of sites, he will find that the statements I have made and the statements the Premier has made are entirely consistent with the criteria that were developed by the Interim Waste Authority and with the selection of candidate sites that has been made.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): To the Minister of Labour: Mr Minister, why have you and the government of Ontario left wide open the inclusion of agriculture in the Ontario Labour Relations Act when the minister admits that the report of the task force on agriculture is not yet available? You and I both know that agriculture wants no part of OLRA.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I am not sure that's quite what I would read out of the meeting I had with them this morning, I can say to the member. I know their views. The task force has a report prepared. They will be issuing it very shortly and we will take a serious look at that task force report when we get it.

Mr Villeneuve: We know that if indeed this legislation is allowed to include agriculture by regulation it will mean no input from this chamber, no input from agriculture, no input from the processors of food. It will reduce the farm-gate value of farm produce and increase the value at the retail level. Why would you go through the back door via regulation and disallow all of us from having input? Mr Minister, we need an answer.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I can assure the honourable member that as soon as we've made any decisions he'll get the answer. I can tell him right now that they've made a number of suggestions. One of them is separate legislation. We're looking at all of their suggestions.

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METHANE GAS LEAK

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Madam Minister, it has come to my attention, through a letter written by a district office of your ministry, that elevated levels of methane gas have been found to exist on the construction site at 5001 Finch Avenue in the Bluehaven community in my riding of Yorkview.

Minister, on November 6, 1991, I expressed my concerns and the concerns of my constituents over the environmental safety of the proposed construction site. At that time, you requested that further migration studies be conducted by the developer to ensure that the future occupants of the project would not be impacted by the adjoining former landfill site. Madam Minister, I'm very concerned about this and I need to know what's happening.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I'm glad to respond to that question because the member has had a concern about this particular project from its very beginning and has raised the issue with me. As a result of his request my ministry required that the site at Finch and Ardwick be monitored by the developer, and that has occurred since November 1991.

In December 1991 the monitoring wells were vandalized, which was unfortunate, but we managed to get them restarted in February when construction on the site started. On April 1 the ministry district office received the monitoring data for February and March, and those results were indeed high in methane.

The methane is a problem when in confined spaces. We have met with the developer, with ministry officials and with the city of North York to discuss the city's role in this and the developer's work plan, but I'd like to give the member an assurance that the building will not be allowed to be enclosed as long as there is a methane problem.

Mr Mammoliti: Madam Minister, the district officer states in his letter, "We are advising you that this closed landfill site may affect residents along Archway Crescent." Madam Minister, I'm concerned about those residents. I need to know what to say to those residents. The plan has got to be submitted from what I can gather. I need to know as quickly as possible. Can I get an assurance from you that these residents will hear something to make them feel a little more comfortable?

Hon Mrs Grier: I can understand the concern of adjacent residents, but I point out to the member that the landfill site was closed in 1966. There has been no evidence of any problems as a result of that in the homes that have already been constructed.

But I'm glad to be able to tell him that a draft plan for dealing with the issue was submitted to my ministry at the meeting that was held earlier in the week, that plan is being reviewed by the ministry, and I will of course keep the member advised so that he can keep the residents of the area advised as that review is completed.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I read from the materials supplied by the Ministry of Labour, "Task force has made recommendations to the government, which is giving them"—meaning the recommendations—"serious consideration with respect to proposed labour changes in the agricultural sector."

I want the Minister of Agriculture and Food to stand in his place now and provide to the public his interventions on behalf of the agricultural industry with respect to the need that he sees with respect to these amended changes, so that the public knows where the Minister of Agriculture and Food stands on this very important and timely issue.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): Right from the beginning, when the discussion paper first came out from the Minister of Labour, we discussed the fact that the exemption that was currently in place for agriculture would be lifted and agricultural workers would be treated the same as all other workers in the province, as they are in most other provinces in the country.

I've been very up front from the beginning that this was the way it was going to be. We've decided to work with the farm community, labour and government. We've set up a task force. It worked very well together. It was an excellent model for workers in this province. The farmers and the industry have come through with an excellent task force report.

Mr Elston: I want to know, since the Minister of Labour just said that a report was about to be provided, who is telling us the correct tale, because you have just confirmed

what the labour document says, and that is that the task force has already reported.

Since all these people already have the report, what is the Minister of Agriculture and Food hiding from the farm communities of this province and what is the Minister of Labour trying to hide from the farm communities of this province? Why will they not share with the public the report which this document says is ready and which they are trying to hide to preclude any kind of extra reaction from the agricultural sector of this province? Why are you destabilizing agriculture in this province?

Hon Mr Buchanan: We're not destabilizing agriculture. The Minister of Labour and I met with many of the farm leaders an hour or two ago to discuss what was being brought forward today. We were very open with the farm leaders. They are aware of what's in the task force report.

Mr Elston: You said it wasn't ready yet.

Hon Mr Buchanan: It's not ready for release yet. Reports released by the government are required to be released in both official languages. The translation is not ready yet and, quite frankly, we're not going to release it until we have both reports ready. We're waiting for the French translation. At that time they will both be released at the same time.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: This has been a policy announced by the government in this place and it has been shared with people outside this place. The content of the report has been given to people who are not members, and that is a violation, a breach of my privileges as a member, because it says in here that the recommendations are now with the government.

The Minister of Labour said it was not ready. He has told us something that is not true. The Minister of Agriculture and Food has confirmed that it is ready and they have shared material with people other than ourselves here as elected representatives. That breaches our privilege.

The Speaker: I understand very well the member's concern. The member will know that what the standing orders provide for is that copies of statements made by ministers will be made available to opposition critics in advance but, as far as reports commissioned by governments are concerned, there is no requirement for them to release those reports to the House prior to releasing them to anyone outside the House. But I fully understand and appreciate the concerns expressed by the member.

SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is for the minister responsible for disability issues. As the minister has publicized, this is National Access Awareness Week, when we aim to raise awareness of the right of disabled persons to full access to education, employment, housing, recreation and transportation.

At the same time, the Minister of Community and Social Services recently announced that Ontario's associations for community living will receive funding increases from her government of just 0.5%, less than half the rate of inflation. Community Living, Mississauga, which has closed its

waiting lists, must now watch its existing waiting lists wait longer, cut two recreation programs and lay off a case manager who helps parents care for their disabled children at home.

I ask you, Minister—so much for access—is this how you want to mark National Access Awareness Week?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister Responsible for Disability Issues): Since the question relates to my colleague's ministry with specific details, I would like to ask her to answer the question.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): The member opposite is well aware of the budgetary difficulties that we face in terms of all the transfer payment agencies. There is no question, and I have been very clear with members in this House, that we are not happy with the level of support we are able to give our transfer payment agencies, that it is going to require them to do business in a way they have not done before, that we are prepared to give them what assistance we can to try to ensure that client services remain high.

But we are well aware and are making no secret with our agencies that we recognize this very low transfer payment agency payment is going to create real difficulties for them in performing the kinds of tasks they want to do and that we are going to have to work very carefully to try to streamline our procedures and to try to ensure that clients are not disadvantaged as a result.

1510

Mrs Marland: We've just had a further example of what is wrong with giving one person six different hats to wear. This minister has ignored the seniors, she now ignores the disabled and she palms the question off to the Minister of Community and Social Services. We know there isn't a lot of money. We understand that. But what we're saying is, are the priorities of this government so great that it can spend \$100 million putting private day care operators out of business, it can spend \$16 million on bilingual signs and it doesn't know how to prioritize in terms of human need?

The Minister of Community and Social Services, who's now answering the question that other minister should have been answering, has announced that funding for the sheltered workshop programs has been cut by \$5 million; \$2 million of that money was to be redirected for supported employment programs for disabled persons. Your government is slashing \$3 million from employment programs for disabled adults.

My question, Minister, is this: Is this what you want for disabled persons? Do you support the message in these budget cuts that Ontario believes disabled persons come last?

Hon Mrs Boyd: Of course that's not what this ministry believes or what this government believes. We have certainly taken \$5 million out of the sheltered workshop program over two years because that is totally consistent with this government and the previous government's policy of trying to move people into the supported employment area at the speed at which they are ready. Many sheltered workshops have closed over the space of this province because our associations for community living and many

of our community groups which we have built over the last number of years in order to accommodate people in the community have made their own decision that this is a more appropriate way of integrating those with disabilities into the community.

We are putting \$2 million of the \$5 million directly back into supportive employment programs and have increased in many ways over the last five years the services that are available in communities. We intend to continue with that both under the multi-year plan and in terms of the community planning we have for the developmentally handicapped.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I had a question for the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area but she stepped out. Don't despair, Mr Speaker, I have lots of questions and I'm going to ask a spur-of-the-moment question to the Minister of Culture and Communications.

LIBRARY GRANTS

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): When can we who represent so many constituents expect to hear about the library grants?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): I know it is a concern. There are many libraries out there in the communities that have been waiting and have been patient. As everyone knows, my ministry has just gone through an additional amount of cuts and I had to wait until everything was in place before I could finalize the package. I'm very pleased to announce that the library grants was an area I was trying to protect to the very end. I'm hoping to have that information out to all of the libraries at the beginning of next week. I know they'll be very pleased to be able to then receive the information, finalize their operational grants and their bases for their budgets.

Mr Mills: I know my library in Newcastle will look forward to that with a great deal of anticipation.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): My question is to my good friend from the north the Treasurer of Ontario. The Treasurer will know that concern for the unemployment of younger people in northern Ontario is of some grave concern actually to many of us across northern Ontario, and especially members from that area.

Mr Treasurer, many of the university students in my riding have returned home. Today is June 4 and a lot of them have not yet secured employment. A lot of them are looking for this employment of course to ensure that they can go back to school in September. As well, as you will know, over the next couple of weeks we'll have high school students out of school looking for jobs.

Treasurer, let me take you back a ways. The Premier has done a good job of taking people back. I'd like to take you back to April 6, 1982, where during the last recession when the government of the day faced some similar circumstances. You came up with a quote:

"Mr Chairman, I find it ironical we are debating something referred to as youth employment. One would think

we would never need to debate unemployment among our young people in this country. If any group of people should automatically be taken into the workforce, it should be the young people."

Mr Treasurer, I ask you, what has changed?

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): I'm sorry, Mr Speaker. I really didn't hear the question that the member put at the end of his preamble.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member repeat his question?

Mr Miclash: I was asking about youth unemployment in northern Ontario. I have come forth with a quote where you said, back when you were a member, that the young people should automatically be taken into the workforce, that it should be the young people who should automatically be taken into the workforce.

Mr Treasurer, all I'm asking is, why are our young people today not a priority? What has changed since you last made the statement?

Hon Mr Laughren: Mr Speaker, the member is being repetitive in his questions. I think that's not quite in order.

I would say the member asked a serious question. I was at a meeting in North Bay last weekend with a very large group of people in attendance, and in the question and answer session I had with them, that was the number one issue that kept coming up, "What about youth unemployment in northern Ontario?" We all know that youth unemployment is a problem all over Ontario, not simply in northern Ontario and not simply in Metro Toronto either, and we are concerned about that.

Certainly nothing's changed in my sentiments about the importance of youth having jobs in the province of Ontario. This year we have put in place a number of programs—not as much as I would like to see, but I think the member for Kenora knows as well that a member of the government, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, the parliamentary assistant to the Premier, is preparing a report and very shortly we will be presenting that report. I hope at that point we will be able to do something for the unemployed youth in this province. I know, because of the depth of the recession, that we won't be able to do as much as people would like, but I do think we should do something more.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I do so, quite frankly, with some sensitivity and, I will be very candid, a little bit of concern on how to approach this in a manner that I hope is not confrontational but I think very important.

A few minutes ago I listened to the Minister of the Environment respond to the member for Yorkview. The response, as I heard it, was as follows: that the people were in no danger—the member of Yorkview raising the question with specific reference to Archway Crescent.

I want to know—and bear with me if you will, Mr Speaker—who has been misled by the Minister of the Environment. I'm glad she's here. I say this very cautiously: Was the member for Yorkview misled or were the people who have

received these two letters over the signature of senior officials in the Ministry of Environment's office misled?

I will provide these copies to you and ask you to compare them to the record of Hansard in terms of the response given by the Minister of the Environment who said that the people were in no imminent danger. It says here, "They should take necessary steps to ensure the safety." A further line of it says, "It's the opinion that the levels may represent a hazard to the people."

Apart from the substance of the issue at hand, the substance in terms of privilege is this: The people of this province, and myself as a member of the opposition and critic, have been given one set of information. The member for Yorkview has been given another. It can't be both ways. The record either has to be corrected in terms of what has been represented to me or represented to that member. I leave this with you, Mr Speaker, to compare with Hansard and ask you to—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): While I recognize the concern of the member for Brampton North, he should know that each member who is recognized to ask a question of the minister must of course judge the response that he or she receives and what course of action the member may wish to take beyond that. What the member indeed has raised is not so much a matter of privilege as a matter of interest in questions which were asked earlier. I trust the member was not suggesting that the minister had misled the House.

1520

Mr McClelland: I said I'd say that very carefully and delicately and—

The Speaker: Will the member take his seat. The member will know that it is not appropriate to accuse anyone of misleading the House, and I would ask the member to reflect on that for a moment and upon reflection perhaps you will stand and withdraw that comment.

Mr McClelland: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw the terminology "misleading the House." I will ask the minister to correct the record and indicate which of the two conflicting messages is correct.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): Mr Speaker, I just simply want to ask—I didn't raise this point earlier—the government has failed to make any mention of the honorees for seniors' achievement for Seniors' Month. I would have hoped there would have been unanimous consent and I certainly would like—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. That's not a point of order. The member should know that.

PETITIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I am happy to add my name to this petition.

ONTARIO WASTE MANAGEMENT CORP

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition, again to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Ontario Waste Management Corp is proposing to build and operate a huge centralized toxic waste incinerator and landfill site in the heart of Ontario's farm land of Niagara;

"Whereas the toxic waste must be treated at the source because transportation of such huge volumes of toxic waste on our highways is suicidal;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to change the mandate and directions being promoted by this crown corporation, the Ontario Waste Management Corp."

To this petition I affix my name and there are 450 other signed petitioners.

YOUTH MINIMUM WAGE

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has stated its objective to eliminate the youth minimum wage differential by 1992; and

"Whereas such action will seriously reduce available job opportunities for Ontario students;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Until the Minister of Labour can assure the Ontario student population that no student jobs will be lost by the elimination of the youth minimum wage differential, we urge the government to maintain the current differential."

This is signed by a number of students in my riding.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That's signed by 388 citizens of the province from Chatham, Windsor, St George and Bolton, and I too have affixed my name to the signatures.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition.

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on resale of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting with the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through to release the committee report on land-leased communities and the proposed legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

It's been signed by 13 people in the Sutton-By-The-Lake area.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

This is signed by some 335 people from Paris, Guelph, Toronto, Cambridge and Trenton, and to which I also attach my signature.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 49 citizens of the county of Middlesex who petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to reject the report of the greater London arbitrator, Mr John Brant. There are many of us in Middlesex who are very concerned about this report, about the amount of agricultural land that has been given over to the city of London. We have very limited agricultural land in this province and we need to preserve all of it. In light of that, the citizens of Middlesex ask that this report by Mr Brant be set aside. I have signed my name to this petition.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: While I completely agree with the honourable member saying what a terrible job the government is doing, that was not a petition she was reading; it was a statement on her own behalf.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve): Thank you. That was not a point of order.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Further petitions? I want to remind members we're under time allocation.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition this afternoon. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

It's signed by 350 residents of Ontario from communities such as Kingston, Gananoque, Chatham, Orillia and Chelmsford. I am affixing my name to this petition.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): I'm pleased to present, on behalf of 47 parents at the St Teresa school, a petition that states:

"We, the ratepayers, parents, staff and students of the Metropolitan Separate School Board are concerned about the way in which Catholic education is funded by the Ontario government and Metropolitan Toronto.

"Although separate schools have been given the right to provide education to the end of grade 12 OAC, they were never given equal funding. For example, in 1991 a Catholic elementary school child in Metro was educated with 75% of the money spent on his or her public school counterpart and the Catholic high school student was allotted only 70% of the money spent.

"These differences represent a shortfall of \$1,678 per student at the elementary level and \$2,502 at the secondary level.

"We urge you to act now to restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I affix my signature of support.

1530

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I have also a petition dealing with the new labour law reforms and also with regard to the studies which have been done by outside bodies and not by this government, which doesn't seem to know whether or not it's going to have an impact. Outside studies have shown that.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies"—

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): Non-partisan?

Mr Sterling: Yes, the member from the NDP is correct. They are non-partisan studies.

—"have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and maintenance of a sound economic environment in this province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That's signed by some 260 people from London, Lambeth, Ottawa, Cambridge, and Nickel Belt. I have signed my name.

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I've got a petition here signed by a number of constituents.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario"—it's only eight people, but I think it's important that I present it—"to urge the Treasurer, Floyd Laughren, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I affix my name.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I am pleased to present about 6,700 names in the greater Hamilton area, mostly in NDP ridings, as part of about 142,000 petitions that I've received:

"Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual signs on Ontario's highways without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers'

dollars, which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister who, as the minister responsible for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

That has my signature of support and is being taken to the Speaker's table by Sarah McDowell from the great riding of Burlington South.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here signed by a number of people in my riding.

"We, the residents of a land-leased community, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information on their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on the resale of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents in long-term leased communities and where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report for the land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals in land-leased communities."

It's been signed by residents in Sutton-By-The-Lake on Juno Crescent and Damsel Circle and Geneva Court and Hummingbird, and I'm just going to fix my name to this here.

TAX EXEMPTION

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I have a petition from the residents of the town of Carleton Place. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"The purpose of this petition is to secure exemption from property tax for the Victoria School Museum. Since 1872 until 1987, the building and lot were municipally owned and therefore tax-exempt. For several years the Lanark County Board of Education and the town of Carleton Place reimbursed the society for up to the amount of the taxes levied against the museum. The board of education has discontinued this arrangement.

"The Carleton Place and Beckworth Historical Society is a volunteer non-profit organization. Through the museum, the society is providing a significant educational service for this community. This is made possible because its members and others are willing to contribute their time and talents.

"We believe that the society should be completely exempt from any property tax. We are asking the House to direct the Ministry of Revenue to have this tax eliminated."

That's signed by approximately 500 citizens of Carleton Place, and I hereby affix my own signature.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT DES LOIS EN CE QUI A TRAIT AUX RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL ET À L'EMPLOI

Mr Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 40, An Act to amend certain Acts concerning Collective Bargaining and Employment / Loi modifiant certaines lois en ce qui a trait à la négociation collective et à l'emploi.

1544

The House divided on Mr Mackenzie's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—62

Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Rae, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

Nays—26

Arnott, Callahan, Carr, Conway, Cunningham, Fawcett, Harnick, Henderson, Jackson, Jordan, Kwinter, Marland, McClelland, McLeod, Miclash, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Runciman, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Wilson (Simcoe West).

ARNPRIOR-NEPEAN
RAILWAY COMPANY INC ACT, 1992

Mr Jordan moved first reading of Bill Pr47, An Act respecting Arnprior-Nepean Railway Company Inc.

Motion agreed to.

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
GREATER TORONTO AREA, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL
DANS LE TERRITOIRE DU GRAND TORONTO

Mr Carr moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry; the Furniture and Fixtures Industries including the Wooden Household Furniture Industry, the Upholstered Household Furniture Industry, the Office Furniture Industry, the Bed Spring and Mattress Industry, and the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Furniture and Fixture Industry; the Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Form Industry, the Platemaking Typesetting and Binding Industry, the Book Publishing Industry and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Combined Publishing and Printing Industry; and the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; the Wood Industries including the Shingles, and Shake Industry, the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry, the Wooden Kitchen Cabinet and Bathroom Vanity Industry, the Wood Preservation Industry, the Particle Board Industry and the Wafer Board Industry; the Leather and Allied Products Industry including Leather Tanneries, the Footwear Industry, and the Luggage, Purse and Handbag Industry; the Textile Products Industries including the Carpet, Mat and Rug Industry, the Canvas and Related Products Industry, the Household Products of Textile Materials Industry and the Tire Cord Fabric Industry; the Sweater Industry; the Food, Beverage, Drug Retail Industries including Grocery Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Since Stores, Beer

Stores, Pharmacies, and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Transportation Industry including the Scheduled Air Transport Industry, the Airport Operations Industry, the Aircraft Rental Industry, the Aircraft Servicing Industry, Service Industries Incidental to Railway Transport, the Freight and Passenger Water Transport Industry, the Ferry Industry, the Maine Towing Industry, the Ship Chartering Industry, the Marine Cargo Handling Industry, the harbour and Port Operation Industry; that operate in the Greater Toronto

Area including the Regions of York, Toronto, Peel and Mississauga including the cities and towns of Mississauga, Brampton, Toronto, Bolton, Orangeville, Caledon, Woodbridge, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora, Markham and Sutton.

1550

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Carr has moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry; the Furniture and Fixtures Industries including Wooden Household Furniture Industry, the Upholstered Household Furniture Industry, the Office Furniture Industry, the Bed Spring and Mattress Industry, and the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Furniture and Fixture Industry; the Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Form Industry, the Platemaking Typesetting and Binding Industry; the Book Publishing Industry and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Combined Publishing and Printing Industry; and the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; the Wood Industries including the Shingles, and Shake Industry, the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry, the Wooden Kitchen Cabinet and Bathroom Vanity Industry, the Wood Preservation Industry, the Particle Board Industry and the Wafer Board Industry; the Leather and Allied Products Industry including Leather Tanneries, the Footwear Industry, and the Luggage, Purse and Handbag Industry; the Textile Products Industries including the Carpet, Mat and Rug Industry, the Canvas and Related Products Industry, the Household Products of Textile Materials Industry and

the Tire Cord Fabric Industry; the Sweater Industry; the Food, Beverage, Drug Retail Industries including Grocery Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Since Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies, and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Transportation Industry including the Scheduled Air Transport Industry, the Airport Operations Industry, the Aircraft Rental Industry, the Aircraft Servicing Industry, Service Industries Incidental to Railway Transport, the Freight and Passenger Water Transport Industry, the Ferry Industry, the Maine Towing Industry, the Ship Chartering Industry, the Marine Cargo Handling Industry, the harbour and Port Operation Industry; that operate in the Greater Toronto Area including the Regions of York, Toronto, Peel and Mississauga including the cities and towns of Mississauga, Brampton, Toronto, Bolton, Orangeville, Caledon, Woodbridge, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora, Markham and Sutton.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Carr's motion carry?

All those in favour of Mr Carr's motion, please say "aye."

All those opposed to Mr Carr's motion, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

1600

The Acting Speaker: Does Mr Carr have a statement pursuant to the introduction of his bill?

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): This particular bill—the reason we are doing this is that the government of the day has not taken to do any economic analysis of its proposed Labour Relations Act changes. As such, we think it is very important, dealing particularly with some of the opportunities for jobs that will be lost; in particular, the unemployment opportunities for women, some of them racial minorities, persons with disabilities, the native people, youth and workers over the age of 45. It deals with some of the companies that historically have been listed in the back, and in that particular case we've looked at everything from the furniture industry to the transportation industry to the computer industry. We've also done it on a regional basis, incorporating some of the communities of Mississauga, Brampton, Toronto, Bolton, Orangeville, Woodbridge, Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Aurora and Markham.

The fact of the matter is that this piece of legislation is very important because the government has not chosen to introduce any impact studies, and this would do that.

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member opposite just introduced an important bill that could affect some areas of my riding. He mentioned the town of Sutton. Actually, it's the community of Sutton within the town of Georgina.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry; that's not a point of order. You will have the opportunity when debating to put your remarks on the record.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
SOUTHWEST REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
DU SUD-OUEST DE L'ONTARIO**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five who have recently lost their jobs; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Field Crop, Fruit and Vegetable Farms, in the Food Products and Processing Industries, in the Petrochemical Industry; in the Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry; in the Chemical Fertilizer Industry; in the Rubber Products Industry; in the Plastic Products Industry; in the Automotive Parts Industry; in the Truck Assembly Industry; in the Steel Drum Industry; in the Wire and Hardware Goods Industry, and in the Wooden Box and Pallet Industry, that operate in the Counties of Windsor, Essex, Lambton and Kent including the cities of Windsor, Chatham and Sarnia, and the towns of Amherstburg, Blenheim, Bothwell, Dresden, Forest, Grand Bend, Harrow, Leamington, Merlin, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Ridgeway, Thamesville, Thedford, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, Watford, Wheatley and Wyoming.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris has moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five who have recently lost their jobs; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Field Crop, Fruit and Vegetable Farms, in the Food Products and Processing Industries, in the Petrochemical Industry, in the Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry, in the Chemical Fertilizer Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Plastic Products Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Truck Assembly Industry, in the Steel Drum Industry, in the Wire and Hardware Goods Industry, and in the Wooden Box and Pallet Industry, that operate in the Counties of Windsor, Essex, Lambton and Kent including the cities of Windsor,

Chatham and Sarnia, and the towns of Amherstburg, Blenheim, Bothwell, Dresden, Forest, Grand Bend, Harrow, Leamington, Merlin, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Thedford, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, Watford, Wheatley and Wyoming.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Harris's motion carry? Carried.

Motion agreed to.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): This is a bill entitled An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: Dispense? Agreed?

Interjection: No, let's hear it.

The Acting Speaker: We have a dissenting voice. Please, Mr Clerk, will you continue.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five who have recently lost their jobs; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Field Crop, Fruit and Vegetable Farms, in the Food Products and Processing Industries, in the Petrochemical Industry, in the Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry, in the Chemical Fertilizer Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Plastic Products Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Truck Assembly Industry, in the Steel Drum Industry, in the Wire and Hardware Goods Industry, and in the Wooden Box and Pallet Industry, that operate in the Counties of Windsor, Essex, Lambton and Kent including the cities of Windsor, Chatham and Sarnia, and the towns of Amherstburg, Blenheim, Bothwell, Dresden, Forest, Grand Bend, Harrow, Leamington, Merlin, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Ridgetown, Thamesville, Thedford, Tilbury, Wallaceburg, Watford, Wheatley and Wyoming. First reading of the bill. Première lecture du projet de loi.

1610

The Acting Speaker: Introduction of bills?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Perhaps I could make a few comments on the bill.

The Acting Speaker: Yes, by all means.

Mr Harris: This particular bill deals with those industries and related industries in and around the area of Windsor. After a year and a half or two years of intending to introduce labour relation changes, the government has continually refused to release any impact studies or any analysis of what impact proceeding with its legislation will have on various regions of this province and various industries of this province.

This bill is simply to ask the government—and if it's carried by the Legislature, obviously to order the government—to do what it should have done in the first place; that is, to carry out impact studies on the various businesses and industries, including agriculture and related industries, in and around the Windsor area and how it will impact on workers in those regions, not only those of the particular target groups we have mentioned, but indeed of all workers there, including those mentioned in the bill.

We think it is a very important piece of legislation—urgent, quite frankly—that should be dealt with quickly in second and third reading before there is any attempt to call second reading of and proceed with the Labour Relations Act amendments that were tabled today, so that all members of the House can truly understand what the impact will be of that piece of legislation.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
LONDON REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992**

**LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
DE LONDON EN ONTARIO**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crop Farms, and Fruit and Vegetable Farms, in the Food and Food Processing Industry, in the Automobile Assembly Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Transportation Equipment Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Electronic Products Industry, and in the Telecommunication Equipment Industry that operate in the Counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Perth and Oxford including the cities of London, St Thomas, Woodstock and Stratford and the towns of Lucan, Strathroy, Ailsa Craig, Parkill, Listowel, Milverton, Mitchell, Hibbert, St Marys, Fullarton, Downie, Elma, Logan, Tavistock, Blandford-Blenheim, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Norwich, West Lorne, Port Stanley, Port Burwell, Aylmer, Yarmouth, Bayham, Dunwich and Malahide.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in

particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crop Farms, and Fruit and Vegetable Farms, in the Food and Food Processing Industry, in the Automobile Assembly Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Transportation Equipment Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Electronic Products Industry, and in the Telecommunication Equipment Industry that operate in the Counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Perth and Oxford including the cities of London, St Thomas, Woodstock and Stratford and the towns of Lucan, Strathroy, Ailsa Craig, Parkhill, Listowel, Milverton, Mitchell, Hibbert, St Marys, Fullarton, Downie, Elma, Logan, Tavistock, Blandford-Blenheim, Ingersoll, Tillsonburg, Norwich, West Lorne, Port Stanley, Port Burwell, Aylmer, Yarmouth, Bayham, Dunwich and Malahide.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Does the member for Nipissing have some short remarks pertaining to his bill?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I do, Mr Speaker.

This piece of legislation deals with workers of various target groups specifically but all workers as well working in businesses and industries in and around the area of London. Similar to the previous bill I introduced today, it calls on the government to do an impact study of the proposed labour legislation changes that were introduced today on these workers and on these various industries.

I again suggest that it would be important that this bill be proceeded with expeditiously—I know the House leader of the New Democratic Party is in the House now—and that it be acted upon by the government, because the government has done no impact studies of its own on employment and on the effect of jobs and the competitiveness of these businesses. I urge the government to call these bills for second and third reading and to carry out the economic impact studies before it expects, particularly the members of its own party, to deal with second reading of the labour legislation changes, particularly in light of the new-found freedom that backbenchers now have for free votes on bills that they may in fact want to represent their constituents on.

1620

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
KITCHENER-WATERLOO REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE DES
MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI SUR LES RELATIONS
DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION DE
KITCHENER-WATERLOO EN ONTARIO**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the pro-

posed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; in the Quarry and Sand Pit Industry; in the Rubber Products Industries and including the Tire and Tubing Industry, and the Rubber Hose and Belting Industry; the Food Products and Processing Industries; the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry, Brewery Products Industry; the Leather and Allied Products Industry including Leather Tanneries, the Footwear Industry, and the Luggage, Purse and Handbag Industry; the Textile Products Industries including the Carpet, Mat and Rug Industry, the Canvas and Related Products Industry, the Household Products of Textile Materials Industry, and the Tire Cord Fabric Industry; the Sweater Industry; the Furniture and Fixtures Industries including the Wooden Household Furniture Industry, the Upholstered Household Furniture Industry, the Office Furniture Industry, the Bed Spring and Mattress Industry, and the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Furniture and Fixture Industry; the Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Form Industry, the Platemaking Typesetting and Binding Industry, the Book Publishing Industry and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Combined Publishing and Printing Industry; and the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; that operate in the Regions and Counties of Waterloo, Wellington including the cities and towns of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Elmira, Wellesley, Harriston, Mount Forest, Arthur, Elora, Fergus, Guelph, Palmerston, Puslinch, West Luther and Erin.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on

productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Live-stock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialities; in the Quarry and Sand Pit Industry; in the Rubber Products Industries and including the Tire and Tubing Industry, and the Rubber Hose and Belting Industry; the Food Products and Processing Industries; the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry, Brewery Products Industry; the Leather and Allied Products Industry including Leather Tanneries, the Footwear Industry, and the Luggage, Purse and Handbag Industry; the Textile Products Industries including the Carpet, Mat and Rug Industry, the Canvas and Related Products Industry, the Household Products of Textile Materials Industry, and the Tire Cord Fabric Industry; the Sweater Industry; the Furniture and Fixtures Industries including the Wooden Household Furniture Industry, the Upholstered Household Furniture Industry, the Office Furniture Industry, the Bed Spring and Mattress Industry, and the Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Furniture and Fixture Industry; the Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Form Industry, the Platemaking Typesetting and Binding Industry, the Book Publishing Industry and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Combined Publishing and Printing Industry; and the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; that operate in the Regions and Counties of Waterloo, Wellington including the cities and towns of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Elmira, Wellesley, Harriston, Mount Forest, Arthur, Elora, Fergus, Guelph, Palmerston, Puslinch, West Luther and Erin.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Harris's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Nipissing want to make a few short remarks on his bill?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Yes, thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Similar to the two prior bills concerning the workers in the various industries and related industries including agriculture in and around the Windsor area and then the London area, this particular bill deals with those industries in and around the Kitchener-Waterloo region and related towns and communities. Again, I believe it very important for all of the members representing that region, and the members interested in those industries in that region will want, I'm sure, to know the impact of the labour relation changes on those businesses, on the job losses, on the potential for profit and loss in investment and success of these industries in that region.

Again I call on the government to quickly deal with second and third reading of this bill before it calls the Labour Relations Act. I suggest that if the government decides it does not want to act on those bills it could table, as we've been asking for the last two years, particularly in the last year and a half and extensively in the last six months, impact studies of the legislation that I think all members would want before voting on and debating the legislation. That's the purpose of the act. I hope we can deal with it expeditiously.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
HAMILTON REGION, 1992**

**LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL
DANS LA RÉGION DE HAMILTON**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food Products and Processing Industry, in the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry and the Brewery Products Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Plastics Products Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Primary Metal Industries including Steel Foundries, the Steel Pipe and Tube Industry, the Primary Smelting and Refining Industry and the Rolled, Cast and Extruded Metal Products Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Electrical Appliance Industry and the Electronic Parts and Components Industry that operate in the Regions and Counties of Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton and including the towns and cities of Hamilton, Flamborough, Ancaster, Dundas, Stoney Creek, Burlington, Halton Hills, Georgetown, Oakville and Milton.

1630

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular

the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food Products and Processing Industry, in the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry and the Brewery Products Industry, in the Automotive Parts Industry, in the Rubber Products Industry, in the Plastics Products Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Primary Metal Industries including Steel Foundries, the Steel Pipe and Tube Industry, the Primary Smelting and Refining Industry and the Rolled, Cast and Extruded Metal Products Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Electrical Appliance Industry and the Electronic Parts and Components Industry that operate in the Regions and Counties of Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton and including the towns and cities of Hamilton, Flamborough, Ancaster, Dundas, Stoney Creek, Burlington, Halton Hills, Georgetown, Oakville and Milton.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Nipissing have a few short remarks to introduce his bill?

Mr Harris: This bill, as we begin to move east across southern Ontario, deals with those businesses and industries in and around the Hamilton region. Specifically, it calls upon the government to again do an impact study of the labour relations changes on the specific target groups of employees mentioned in the bill and indeed all employees, particularly on those industries in and around the Hamilton region. Again, I call on the government to call this bill for second and third reading and to carry out the impact study before proceeding with debate on second reading of the labour relations changes.

I think this one in particular is most important, because for the next three years and probably never for ever thereafter the Hamilton region and six ridings thereof are represented by members of the New Democratic Party. I know that with their new-found freedom, and now catching up to our party on actually allowing a free vote on a significant piece of legislation, those six members, one of whom is present here at this particular time in the gallery, will want to have all that information before they proceed with a piece of legislation that may impact very negatively on the jobs and the future jobs and prospects for jobs in and around the Hamilton region.

In the absence again of the government doing any impact studies on those industries in and around this region, this particular piece of legislation calls on the government to do that. I would encourage the New Democratic Party to proceed as quickly as possible so that we do not delay unduly consideration of second reading of the Ontario labour relations bill.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
OTTAWA VALLEY REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992**

**LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE LA VALLÉE DE L'OUTAOUAIS**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food and Food Processing Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Machinery Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Printing and Allied Publishing Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Forms Industry, the Platemaking, Typesetting and Binding Industry, and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts Industry, the Electronic Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry, in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries, and in the Tourism Industry including the Hotel and Restaurant Industry that operate in the Ottawa Valley Region including the Counties and Regions of Prescott and Russell, Ottawa-Carleton, Lanark and Renfrew and including the cities and towns of L'Orignal, Hawkesbury, Alfred, Rockland, Casselman, Vankleek Hill, Vanier, Nepean, Kanata, Almonte, Perth, Darling, Lanark, Deep River, Chalk River, Petawawa, Pembroke, Hagarty Killaloe Station, Barrys Bay, Combermere, Dacre, Cobden, and Ottawa.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Will the honourable member send up his bill, please.

Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food and Food Processing Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Machinery

Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Printing and Allied Publishing Industries including the Commercial Printing Industry, the Business Forms Industry, the Platemaking, Typesetting and Binding Industry, and the Newspaper, Magazine and Periodical Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts Industry, the Electronic Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry, in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries, and in the Tourism Industry including the Hotel and Restaurant Industry that operate in the Ottawa Valley Region including the Counties and Regions of Prescott and Russell, Ottawa-Carleton, Lanark and Renfrew and including the cities and towns of L'Orignal, Hawkesbury, Alfred, Rockland, Casselman, Vankleek Hill, Vanier, Nepean, Kanata, Almonte, Perth, Darling, Lanark, Deep River, Chalk River, Petawawa, Pembroke, Hagarly Killaloe Station, Barrys Bay, Combermere, Dacre, Cobden, and Ottawa.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Harris's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

1640

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Nipissing have some brief comments on his bill?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): This bill is very similar to other bills that I've introduced today, but industry-specific in and around Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley region. I know of interest to members is that my riding is at the very north end of the Ottawa Valley up in Nipissing.

This bill calls upon the government to do an economic impact study of the Labour Relations Act changes specific to this region and industries in this region and, of course, to all workers, but indeed specifically to the target groups mentioned in the bill.

Again, I call on the government to proceed with this bill expeditiously, to call it for second and third reading, to enact a study so that indeed all members of the Legislature, particularly those in and around the Ottawa Valley and the Ottawa region, may know of the impact of the piece of legislation before they are called upon to debate and to vote on it.

As we have been calling on the government for the past two years and specifically since it's taken office and intensely for the last six months to do these economic impact studies, I would hope that it would want to move quickly on this so as not to delay unduly the consideration of the bill to consider changes to the Labour Relations Act.

With my apologies to Killaloe Station for mispronunciation at the start, that indeed is the intent of this particular bill.

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE NIAGARA PENINSULA OF ONTARIO, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA PÉNINSULE ONTARIENNE DU NIAGARA

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural industry including Field Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; the Wine Industry; the Tobacco Products Industry; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; that operate in the Regions and Counties of Niagara and Haldimand-Norfolk including the cities and town of Niagara Falls, Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St Catharines, Grimsby, Fort Erie, Thorold, Hagersville, Caledonia, Port Maitland, Port Dover, Waterford, Port Rowan and Delhi.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural industry including Field Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; the Wine Industry; the Tobacco Products Industry; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential

Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; that operate in the Regions and Counties of Niagara and Haldimand-Norfolk including the cities and town of Niagara Falls, Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St Catharines, Grimsby, Fort Erie, Thorold, Hagersville, Caledonia, Port Maitland, Port Dover, Waterford, Port Rowan and Delhi.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Harris's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know that you'll rule as to whether or not this is a proper point of order. I'm not quite sure, but please bear with me. There's a class of youngsters up there in the visitors' gallery who suffered a hot bus ride to get here, seeking some respite from the boredom of the classroom. Perhaps the Speaker could encourage more excitement and enthusiasm here so as not to disappoint these young people who came to see democracy at work.

The Acting Speaker: It's not a point of order; it's a point of view.

1650

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I wonder, Mr Speaker, if I could make a few brief comments on the bill.

The Acting Speaker: Yes, I'm sorry.

Mr Harris: I do wish to make a few brief comments on this bill, particularly for the enlightenment of members of the House, for the member for Welland-Thorold who is here and whose region the bill pertains to and indeed for all observers, particularly the class from Welland-Thorold that is here. I think it's important that they, as well as the member for Welland-Thorold, understand that this bill calls upon the government to do an impact study, an inquiry if you like, into the effects of the Labour Relations Act changes. It's to fill in a piece of information that we think is vital for all members to have.

Before dealing with the Labour Relations Act, we think members would want to know the impact of the bill on employment opportunities in and around the Niagara Peninsula, particularly on those industries in and around that region. Given that the members of the New Democratic Party have been given the new-found freedom of a free vote on a significant piece of legislation just yesterday, I know they, and in particular the member for Welland-Thorold, would want to know what impact this piece of legislation will have upon the employees and future jobs of those in his riding and related ridings in the Niagara Peninsula.

I would encourage the government to proceed as expeditiously as it can to call second and third reading of this particular bill and the other related bills I'm introducing today, so that we may all know, 130 of us from the various regions of this province, the impact of the Ontario Labour Relations Act proposed changes before we deal with that at second reading. Then of course we will not see any undue delay in the consideration of second reading of the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
NORTH SHORE REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA REGION
DE LA RIVÉ NORD DE L'ONTARIO**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs, on the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Rubber Products Industry including the Tire and Tube Industry, the Automotive Vehicles Parts and Accessories Industries that operate in the North Shore region including the regions and counties of Durham, Northumberland, including the cities and towns of Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Beaverton, Port Hope, Cobourg, Colborne, Brighton, Hastings, Campbellford and Frankford.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment, on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Rubber Products Industry, including the Tire and Tube Industry; the Automotive Vehicles, Parts and Accessories Industries; that operate in the North Shore Region including the Regions and Counties of Durham, Northumberland including the cities and town of Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Pickering, Port Perry, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Beaverton, Port Hope, Cobourg, Colborne, Brighton, Hastings, Campbellford and Frankford.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member who introduced the bill, the member for Nipissing, have a few short remarks on his bill?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): This bill is similar to other bills and the companion bills today, except that of course it deals with the regions in the north shore region in and around the counties of Durham and Northumberland and with those particular industries there. It calls upon the government to do an impact study into the effects that

the changes introduced today to the Ontario Labour Relations Act might have on job opportunities and prospects and layoffs of workers and potential workers in and around this region and on those industries.

We would think that the members of all three parties who represent those regions would certainly want to have access to this information. We were most disappointed, of course, that it wasn't forthcoming by the government with the introduction of the bill, something we had been calling for for a considerable period of time.

Again I would urge the House leader for the New Democratic Party, who is here, to call second and third reading of these bills as expeditiously as possible. I'm sure the House leaders for all parties would agree to deal with these bills, perhaps in unison, so that we could perhaps even Monday have second and third reading of the whole shooting match. That way we could get on with the studies and we could have that information more expeditiously, and perhaps then, if we could get the studies completed, we could deal with second reading of the Ontario Labour Relations Act, perhaps before the end of this year.

That's the purpose of the bill, and I hope the government will move quickly on it.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
CENTRAL LAKES REGION, 1992**

**LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
CENTRALE DES LACS**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native people, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment, on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; the Boat Building and Repair Industry; the Metal Dies, Moulds and Patterns Industry; the Boat Building and Repair Industry; and the Food Products and Processing Industry; that operate in the Central Lakes Region, including the Counties and Regions of Peterborough, Victoria and Hastings and including the cities and towns of Peterborough, Havelock, Lakefield, Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Nephton,

Stirling, Tweed, Madoc, Marmora, Coe Hill, Bancroft, Maynooth and Wollaston.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the and the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry, the Major Appliance Industry, the Lighting Fixture Industry, the Electric Lamp and Shade Industry, the Record Player, Radio and Television Industry, the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Parts and Components Industry, the Electric Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry; the Boat Building and Repair Industry; the Metal Dies, Moulds and Patterns Industry; the Boat Building and Repair Industry; and the Food Products and Processing Industry; that operate in the Central Lakes Region, including the Counties and Regions of Peterborough, Victoria and Hastings, and including the cities and towns of Peterborough, Havelock, Lakefield, Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Nephton, Stirling, Tweed, Madoc, Marmora, Coe Hill, Bancroft, Maynooth and Wollaston.

1709

The House divided on Mr Harris's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—64

Allen, Arnott, Bisson, Boyd, Callahan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Cunningham, Dadamo, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harnick, Harrington, Harris, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jordan, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin,

Mahoney, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Mathysen, Miclash, Morrow, Murdoch, B., North, O'Connor, O'Neil, H., Owens, Perruzza, Phillips, G., Pilkey, Rizzo, Ruprecht, Sola, Sterling, Sullivan, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Tilson, Turnbull, Ward, B., Ward, M., Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson, F., Wilson, J., Wood, Ziembra.

Nays—0

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Nipissing have a few short remarks?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I do, Mr Speaker, and I appreciate the direction as to time.

This bill, similar to the companion piece of legislation I introduced earlier, deals with those industries and businesses

and those employees, potential employees and workers in and around the region of Peterborough. I was in Peterborough today and last night I met with the chamber of commerce and with the county council which expressed strong concerns and wanted to know the impact of the Ontario labour relations changes.

This particular piece of legislation calls on the government to give us a study of the impact of the labour relations bill, what that impact will be on the categories of workers—indeed all workers, not just the categories mentioned—of native peoples, racial minorities, women, persons with disabilities, youth and workers over the age of 45, and on the competitiveness of those companies.

I know all members of the Legislature will want this particular piece of legislation, along with the companion bills, dealt with before second reading of the Ontario Labour Relations Act is called. And so again I would call on the government to call this bill and deal with it quickly. Let's have second and third reading. Let's get the impact studies done so that we may deal more expeditiously, perhaps even before the end of this year, with second reading of the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
SIMCOE REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE SIMCOE**

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels, and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art

Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; the Aircraft Parts Industry; the Motor Vehicle Industry; that operate in the Simcoe Region including the Counties and Regions of Simcoe, Grey and Dufferin and including the cities and towns of Wiarton, Owen Sound, Markdale, Durham, Dundalk, Hanover, Meaford, Shelburne, Collingwood, Stayner, Creemore, Alliston, Cookstown, Wasaga Beach, Elmvale, Penetanguishene, Midland, Washago, Orillia, Barrie and Bradford.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Villeneuve): Mr Harris has moved An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: Dispense? Agreed? Agreed.

My understanding from the Clerk's table is we cannot dispense a reading by the Speaker. I will have to continue. Please bear with me.

Mr Harris moves An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery Stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; in the Agriculture Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; the Aircraft Parts Industry; the Motor Vehicle Industry; that operate in the Simcoe Region including the Counties and Regions of Simcoe, Grey and Dufferin and including the cities and towns of Wiarton,

Owen Sound, Markdale, Durham, Dundalk, Hanover, Meaford, Shelburne, Collingwood, Stayner, Creemore, Alliston, Cookstown, Wasaga Beach, Elmvale, Penetanguishene, Midland, Washago, Orillia, Barrie and Bradford.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Nipissing have some brief opening remarks to introduce his bill?

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I do. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let me say that this bill deals, of course, with the region and communities I mentioned and, in addition to that, two I did not: Lafontaine and Thunder Beach. I want those residents to know we are concerned with the businesses and industries there as well.

It deals with the impact of the Ontario Labour Relations Act and what it will have on employment and employment opportunities, jobs in industries and the competitiveness of those industries in and around the Simcoe region.

Again I would ask the government House leader to call this bill along with its sister pieces of legislation and to expeditiously have second and third reading and the impact studies done so that all members of the House will have all the facts and information they need, particularly those members in the Simcoe region but, indeed, all 130 members and particularly the members of the New Democratic Party who, with their now new-found freedom, being given free vote on a significant piece of legislation, will want to know more information as opposed to just parroting what they're told to do.

Given that the members of my caucus for the last two years have had the right to free votes, that now the Liberal Party may even do that too and that now the New Democratic caucus members appear to be coming into the real world, they'll want to know the facts before they deal with second reading of the Labour Relations Act. If we can get these economic studies done and these bills passed, perhaps then we can deal with second reading of the Ontario Labour Relations Act some time before the end of 1992 and not unduly delay the bill.

The Acting Speaker: We proceed with introduction of bills. The honourable member for Nipissing.

Mr Harris: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you very much to the member for Welland for acknowledging this bill. I know it's one he'll want to support.

1720

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
PRINCE EDWARD REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI SUR
LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
DE PRINCE EDWARD

Mr Harris moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native

peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialties; that operate in the Prince Edward Region including the Counties and Regions of Lennox and Addington, Hastings and Northumberland and including the cities and towns of Colborne, Brighton, Trenton, Napanee, Belleville, Wellington, Picton, Deseronto and DeBign.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): That's the first time DeBign has been mentioned in the Legislature of the Ontario House. Even though I had difficulty pronouncing it, I want the people of DeBign to know that I am the first person I know of to mention them in the Legislature.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harris moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential

Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crops, Fruit Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and other Horticultural Specialities; that operate in the Prince Edward Region including the Counties and Regions of Lennox and Addington, Hastings and Northumberland and including the cities and towns of Colborne, Brighton, Trenton, Napanee, Belleville, Wellington, Picton, Deseronto and DeBign.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Nipissing have a few opening remarks?

1730

Mr Harris: In brief, this bill, like its companion bills, deals with those industries, jobs and employment opportunities now and in the future and the competitiveness of those businesses and industries that are in and around the Prince Edward region.

Again, I hope that the House leader—I know my House leader, and I hope the Liberal House leader, would concur in dealing with the bills as a package. Perhaps in that way we could move them all forward at the same time for second and third reading and then get on expeditiously with the study, as the bills call for, of the impact of the Labour Relations Act on those jobs of the target groups and indeed all employees in those industries in and around those areas.

I know that all members of the Legislature, particularly those of the New Democratic Party who have now been given freedom to vote in a free vote, will need to know more information. I recall the days when I was in a majority government and a part of that government. When the Premier of the day told me how to vote, that was it or you left and went home disgraced and never to return.

Of course, we've changed in that in our party for the last two years and now that the members of the New Democratic Party have been given a free vote opportunity on a major bill, I know they'll want to know more information before they exercise that right to reflect the viewpoints of their constituents, particularly those in and around the region of Prince Edward and in the companion bills, all 130 ridings.

If that can be done and the economic impact studies done, it would mean that if the government decides that it ever wishes to proceed with second reading of the Ontario

Labour Relations Act, perhaps we could do so before the end of the year.

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
KINGSTON REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE KINGSTON

Mr Sterling moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Foods Products and Processing Industries; in the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry and the Brewery Products Industry, the Rubber Products Industry, the Plastic Products Industries, the Textile Products Industries, the Clothing Industries, the Furniture and Fixtures Industries, the Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries, the Primary Metal Industries including the Aluminum Rolling, Casting and Extruding Industry, the Transportation Equipment Industry including the Motor Vehicle Wheel and Brake Industry, the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries, the Structural Concrete Products Industry and the Ready-Mix Concrete Industry that operate in the Kingston region including the Counties and Regions of Leeds and Grenville and Frontenac and including the cities and towns of Kingston, Sharbot, Westport and Gananoque.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Sterling moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Food Products and Processing Industries, in the Beverage Industries including the Soft Drink Industry, the Distillery Industry and the Brewery Products Industry, the Rubber Products Industry, the Plastic Products Industries, the Textile Products Industries, the Clothing Industries, the Furniture and Fixtures Industries, the Printing, Publishing, and Allied Industries, the Primary Metal Industries including the Aluminum Rolling, Casting

and Extruding Industry, the Transportation Equipment Industry including the Motor Vehicle Wheel and Brake Industry, the Electrical and Electronic Products Industries, the Structural Concrete Products Industry and the Ready-Mix Concrete Industry that operate in the Kingston Region including the Counties and Regions of Leeds and Grenville and Frontenac and including the cities and towns of Kingston, Sharbot, Westport and Gananoque.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Sterling's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Table Clerk (Mr Franco Carrozza):

This is a bill entitled An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act—

The Acting Speaker: Dispense? Agreed?

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): No.

The Acting Speaker: No? I heard a negative. Please proceed.

The Acting Table Clerk: —on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs—

Interjections: Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: Dispense? Agreed.

Would Mr Sterling, the honourable member for Carleton, have some brief opening remarks on his bill?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Yes, Mr Speaker. I'm going to keep them brief—not short, but brief. In order that we may introduce bills with regard to other areas, this deals with one area in eastern Ontario which you are most familiar with. We are hurting in eastern Ontario. This legislation should not be implemented, the amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, without full study about what it's going to do to eastern Ontario, and that's what this bill requires.

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE ST LAWRENCE REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION ONTARIENNE DU SAINT-LAURENT

Mr Sterling moved An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and on the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant

closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and Other Horticultural Specialties, in the Food and Food Processing Industries, in the Chemical Fertilizer and Fertilizer Materials Industry, in the Chemical and Chemical Products Industry, in the Plastic and Synthetic Resin Industry, in the Pharmaceutical and Medicine Industry, in the Paper and Allied Products Industry, in the Printing and Publishing Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry and the Television Industry, in the Wire and Hardware Goods Industry and in the Telecommunications Equipment Industry that operate in the St Lawrence Region including the Counties and Regions of and Leeds and Grenville, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and including the cities and towns of Brockville, Prescott, Kemptville, Iroquois, Cardinal, Morrisburg, Winchester, Chesterville, Alexandria, Lancaster and Cornwall.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Sterling moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Agricultural Industry including Livestock Farms, Field Crop Farms, Fruit and Vegetable Farms and Other Horticultural Specialties, in the Food and Food Processing Industries, in the Chemical Fertilizer and Fertilizer Materials Industry, in the Chemical and Chemical Products Industry, in the Plastic and Synthetic Resin Industry, in the Pharmaceutical and Medicine Industry, in the Paper and Allied Products Industry, in the Printing and Publishing Industry, in the Fabricated Metal Products Industry, in the Electrical and Electronic Products Industry including the Small Electrical Appliance Industry and the Television Industry, in the Wire and Hardware Goods Industry and in the Telecommunications Equipment Industry that operate in the St Lawrence Region including the Counties and Regions of and Leeds and Grenville, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and including the cities and towns of Brockville, Prescott, Kemptville, Iroquois, Cardinal, Morrisburg, Winchester, Chesterville, Alexandria, Lancaster and Cornwall.

Motion agreed to.

1740

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Carleton have some brief opening remarks on his bill?

Mr Sterling: In order to move things along in the Legislature, I would only like to associate my words on the previous bill with this bill.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
CENTRAL ONTARIO REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
DE L'ONTARIO CENTRAL**

Mr Sterling moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; that operate in central Ontario including the Counties and Regions of Muskoka and Parry Sound including the cities and towns of Powassan, Trout Creek, South River, Sundridge, Burk's Falls, Kearney, Emsdale, Sprucedale, Parry Sound, Nobel, McDougall, Britt, Byng, Loring, Novar, Haliburton, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Huntsville.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Sterling moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries

including Grocery stores, Specialty Food Stores, Liquor Stores, Wine Stores, Beer Stores, Pharmacies and Patent Medicine and Toiletries; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; the Retail Service Industries including Book and Stationary Stores, Florist Shops, Lawn and Garden Centres, Hardware Stores, Paint Glass and Wallpaper Stores, Sporting Goods Stores, Bicycle Shops, Musical Instrument Stores, Record and Tape Stores, Jewellery Stores, Watch and Jewellery Repair Shops, Camera and Photographic Supply Stores, Toy and Hobby Shops, Gift, Novelty and Souvenir Shops, Second-Hand Merchandise Stores, Opticians Shops, Art Galleries and Artist Supply Stores, Luggage and Leather Goods Stores and Monument and Tombstone Dealers; that operate in the Central Ontario area including the Counties and Regions of Muskoka and Parry Sound including the cities and towns of Powassan, Trout Creek, South River, Sundridge, Burk's Falls, Kearney, Emsdale, Sprucedale, Parry Sound, Nobel, McDougall, Britt, Byng, Loring, Novar, Haliburton, Gravenhurst, Bracebridge and Huntsville.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Introduction of bills? The honourable government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I move under rule 9(c) that the House sit past 6 pm.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I believe it was my opportunity to comment on the bill and you did not afford me that opportunity.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, the motion has been moved.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, he did not have the floor.

The Acting Speaker: I've just been advised by the table that Mr Sterling does have a brief time to comment and then we will ask for introduction of further bills. I believe, with the indulgence of the House, that Mr Sterling does have brief comments to make on his most recently introduced bill and then we will proceed in rotation.

1750

Mr Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate that. This bill, like the other bills, introduces—

Hon Mr Cooke: Explanatory notes, Mr Speaker?

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is working on explanatory notes.

Mr Sterling: I am following the lead that was taken before with regard to government bills.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Mr Speaker, I'd like to know what bill we're speaking to.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. We're speaking to the most recently introduced bill. The honourable member for Carleton has the floor.

Mr Sterling: This bill, along with some of the other bills, has been introduced to force this government to

undertake an inquiry into the effects of the very dramatic piece of legislation which was introduced earlier this afternoon—that is, the Ontario Labour Relations Act. We have to be able to know what the effects of that legislation are before we can deal with it in a logical and reasonable fashion here in this Legislature this year. Mr Harris, our leader, has indicated on a number of occasions with regard to other areas that what we would like to—

The Acting Speaker: I would like the honourable member for Carleton to limit his comments to explanatory notes on the most recently introduced bill.

Mr Sterling: I will try to scope my comments as I've done with regard to other matters as well.

The bill is introduced particularly for the north-central area and deals mostly with the tourist industry which is so prevalent in the Haliburton-Muskoka area. We believe that, perhaps of all the areas in Ontario which need an inquiry before we carry on with this particular legislation, it is that area, because without the impact of this legislation being

known we will have a tremendous number of tourist industries that will be forced to close down.

We certainly hope this Legislature will support these on first, second and third readings so that we can deal with this Ontario Labour Relations Act perhaps before the year is out.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Mr Speaker, I don't believe we have a quorum.

The Acting Speaker: I'm advised by the table that we do have a quorum.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, I move under rule 9(c) that the House sit past 6 o'clock.

1809

The House divided on Mr Cooke's motion that the House continue to sit beyond the normal adjournment hour, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 55; nays 19.

[Report continues in volume B]

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OSJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaitre, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
St. George-St. David Sarnia	Scott, Ian G.	L	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe West/-Ouest Sudbury	Wilson, Jim	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathyssen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathyssen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 4 June 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 4 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 4 June 1992

[Report continued from volume A]

1810

Mr Cooke moved that the House move to orders of the day.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As I said, we were trying to finish introducing the number of bills we had. This has been recognized as a dilatory motion by previous Speakers in terms of delay. There has been a ruling by this House, but there has never been a ruling with regard to this kind of dilatory motion during the introduction of bills or during a part of the routine proceedings. There have been dilatory motions between various parts of the routine proceedings; in other words, once the reports by committees had been completed and we were about to move on to the next part of the routine proceedings, the House leader on a previous occasion stood in his place and moved that we move to orders of the day.

Therefore, I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to allow members of this House who are introducing private members' bills to have the opportunity to continue introducing those if in fact we're going past 6 o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): We will be sitting past 6 of the clock. The honourable government House leader does and did have the floor legitimately. It's a non-debatable motion and he has moved that we go to orders of the day.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I came today to make a few comments on a particular piece of public business. I don't have much use personally for some of the tactics that have been engaged in in this place over time. I say quite sincerely that I'm quite prepared to discuss the public business. Before we get too far into the evening, I think it would be useful for representatives of each of the three parties to meet quickly and quietly to sort out what might be done, because June, July and August tend to be long, hot months, and there are some things—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Conway: I'm trying to be conciliatory, which is not my normal disposition. I want to say to my friends particularly in the government that I know exactly the pressures they face and I'm not unsympathetic to them. But before we get too far down a road that now has some choices, I think it would be prudent, if nothing else, for representatives to meet soon so that the hateful streak in some of us is not stimulated beyond a reasonable degree.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable government House leader has moved that we move to orders of the day, a non-debatable motion. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

1845

The House divided on Mr Cooke's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 48; nays 18.

The Acting Speaker: Orders of the day, the honourable government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): During the period of time in which the bells were ringing, the three parties have had an opportunity to discuss this matter, and I'd like to just indicate what we're going to do over the next short period of time.

There's an agreement that we will return to introduction of bills, so that the Conservative Party can quickly introduce six bills. Then we will move to orders of the day. The first order that we will call will be the 23rd order, which is second reading of Bill 123. That will be followed by unanimous consent to move to third reading of Bill 123 and we'll complete that bill.

We will then move to the third order, Bill 118, and we will complete the third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act, debate that for a short period of time and defer the vote until Monday. There is an absolute commitment by the opposition parties that we will get to orders of the day on Monday to take the recorded vote on Bill 118. So it's with unanimous consent that we will move back to introduction of bills.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent to return to introduction of bills? Agreed?

Interjections: Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TASK FORCE ON ONTARIO LABOUR RELATIONS
ACT REVIEW AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
SUDBURY REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE SUDBURY

Mr Harnick moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Mining Industry, in the Primary Metal Industries, in the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry, the Heavy Construction Industries, the Highways, Streets and Bridges

Industry, the Waterworks and Sewage Systems Industry, the Power and Telecommunication Transmission Lines Industry, the Water Well Drilling Industry, the Septic System Installation Industry, the Excavating and Grading Industry, the Equipment Rental With Operator Industry, the Asphalt Paving Industry and the Concrete Pouring Industry; that operate in the Sudbury Region including the Counties and Regions of Manitoulin Island and Sudbury and including the cities and towns of Sudbury, Elloit Lake, Levack, Cartier, Chelmsford, Benny, Ruel, Westree, Gogama, Tionga, Kukatush, Foleyet, Capreol, Val Caron, Garson, Noelville, Espanola, Chapleau, Nemegos, Sultan, Ramsey, Biscotasing and Metagama.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Harnick moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Mining Industry, in the Primary Metal Industries, in the Telecommunication Equipment Industry, the Electronic Office, Store and Business Machine Industry, the Heavy Construction Industries, the Highways, Streets and Bridges Industry, the Waterworks and Sewage Systems Industry, the Power and Telecommunication Transmission Lines Industry, the Water Well Drilling Industry, the Septic System Installation Industry, the Excavating and Grading Industry, the Equipment Rental with Operator Industry, the Asphalt Paving Industry and the Concrete Pouring Industry; that operate in the Sudbury Region including the Counties and Regions of Manitoulin Island and Sudbury and including the cities and towns of Sudbury, Elloit Lake, Levack, Cartier, Chelmsford, Benny, Ruel, Westree, Gogama, Tionga, Kukatush, Foleyet, Capreol, Val Caron, Garson, Noelville, Espanola, Chapleau, Nemegos, Sultan, Ramsey, Biscotasing and Metagama.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Harnick's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Willowdale can have a brief time to explain his bill.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I will not go into any detail whatsoever, only to say that the remarks regarding this bill are the same as the remarks regarding the companion bills introduced earlier. I merely wish to apologize to the people of the picturesque town of Killarney that was omitted from the list and I have no other remarks to make about this.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
NORTHEASTERN REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DU NORD-EST**

Mrs Marland moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forest Industry, in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; that operate in the Northeastern Region including the Counties and Regions of Timiskaming and Cochrane and including the cities and towns of Hearst, Kapuskasing, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, Cobalt, Haileybury, Englehart, South Porcupine, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls, Valrita, Harty, Opasatika, Mattice, Calstock, Pagwa River, Moosonee, Onakawana, Coral, Fraserdale and Island Falls.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mrs Marland moves first reading of an Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry, in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; that operate in the Northeastern Region including the Counties and Regions of Timiskaming and Cochrane and including the cities and towns of Hearst, Kapuskasing, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, New Liskeard, Cobalt, Haileybury, Englehart, South Porcupine, Iroquois Falls, Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls, Valrita, Harty, Opasatika, Mattice, Calstock, Pagwa River, Moosonee, Onakawana, Coral, Fraserdale and Island Falls.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mrs Marland's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Mississauga South have a few remarks pertaining to her bill?

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think it's important to recognize the significance of this bill. The bill is being introduced because of the concern that we in the Progressive Conservative Party have with the Labour Relations Act amendment legislation that was introduced in this House today.

Whether or not the Bob Rae socialist government recognizes it, we have an appreciation of what a regressive piece of legislation the Labour Relations Act amendments are. Thus it is necessary for me to table this bill in this House tonight in order to protect the people I have identified in this bill who will be adversely affected in regard to their opportunities of employment.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
SAULT STE MARIE REGION, 1992**

**LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DU SAULT-STE-MARIE**

Mr Wilson moved a bill entitled An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and on the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Steel Foundries, in the Steel Pipe and Tube Industry, in the Iron Foundries, in Primary Smelting and Refining of Non-Ferrous Metal Industries, in the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry, in the Particle Board Industry, in the Custom Coating of Metal Products Industry; that operate in the Sault Ste Marie Region including the Region of Algoma and including the cities and towns of Sault Ste Marie, Blind River, St Joseph Isle, Espanola, Searchmont, Frater, Hawk Junction, Goudreau, Lochalsh, Franz, White River, Hornepayne, Oba, Fire River, Peterbell, and Hillsport.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Wilson from Simcoe West moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario compa-

nies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Steel Foundries, in the Steel Pipe and Tube Industry, in the Iron Foundries, in Primary Smelting and Refining of Non-Ferrous Metal Industries, in the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry, in the Particle Board Industry, in the Custom Coating of Metal Products Industry; that operate in the Sault Ste Marie Region including the Region of Algoma and including the cities and towns of Sault Ste Marie, Blind River, St Joseph Isle, Espanola, Searchmont, Frater, Hawk Junction, Goudreau, Lochalsh, Franz, White River, Hornepayne, Oba, Fire River, Peterbell, and Hillsport.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Wilson's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

1900

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member for Simcoe West have a few brief remarks pertaining to his bill?

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a few brief remarks. This bill, along with several bills that have been introduced this afternoon and this evening, simply expresses the concern of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and caucus with the government's Labour Relations Act amendments that were introduced this afternoon in this House. The bill calls upon the government to study the economic and employment impact of the Labour Relations Act amendments, to be sure that all members are fully informed of the pros and cons of the proposed amendments and to ensure that the government does carry out economic impact studies. So we would encourage the government to pass these bills, particularly this bill, so that all members have the information they require to make a fully conscious decision on the government's proposed labour law amendments.

**TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
THUNDER BAY REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE THUNDER BAY**

Mr Tilson moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and on the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry, in the Forest Products Trucking Industry, in the Wood Industries including the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Wood Preservation

Industry, the Particle Board Industry and the Wafer Board Industry, in the Paper and Allied Products Industry including the Pulp Industry, the Paperboard Industry, the Corrugated Box Industry, the Paper Bag Industry, the Coated and Treated Paper Industry, and the Consumer Paper Products Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Urban Transportation System Assembly Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Railway Transport Industry and Services Industries Incidental to Railroad Transport, the Marine Cargo Handling Industry, in the Ship Chartering Industry, in the Harbour and Port Operation Industry, in the Tourism Industry including the Hotel and Restaurant Industry, and in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries that operate in the Thunder Bay Region including the Region of Thunder Bay and including the cities and towns of White River, Thunder Bay, Manitouwadge, Caramat, Longlac, Geraldton, Nakina, Kowkash, Tashota, Auden, Armstrong, Collins, Allanwater, Savant Lake, Graham, Larson, Red Rock, Nipigon, Schreiber, Marathon, and Hillsport.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Tilson moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and on the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry, in the Forest Products Trucking Industry, in the Wood Industries including the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Wood Preservation Industry, the Particle Board Industry and the Wafer Board Industry, in the Paper and Allied Products Industry including the Pulp Industry, the Paperboard Industry, the Corrugated Box Industry, the Paper Bag Industry, the Coated and Treated Paper Industry, and the Consumer Paper Products Industry, in the Machinery and Equipment Industry, in the Urban Transportation System Assembly Industry, in the Furniture and Fixtures Industry, in the Railway Transport Industry and Services Industries Incidental to Railroad Transport, the Marine Cargo Handling Industry, in the Ship Chartering Industry, in the Harbour and Port Operation Industry, in the Tourism Industry including the Hotel and Restaurant Industry, and in the Food, Beverage and Drug Retail Industries that operate in the Thunder Bay Region including the Region of Thunder Bay and including the cities and towns of White River, Thunder Bay, Manitouwadge, Caramat, Longlac, Geraldton, Nakina, Kowkash, Tashota, Auden, Armstrong, Collins, Allanwater, Savant Lake, Graham, Larson, Red Rock, Nipigon, Schreiber, Marathon, and Hillsport.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Tilson's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Tilson, a few brief remarks on your bill? Mr Tilson passes on the opportunity for brief remarks.

1910

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
NORTHWESTERN REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
DU NORD-OUEST

Mr Arnott moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry; in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; in Tourism and Recreation; that operate in the Northwestern Region including the Regions of Kenora and Rainy River and including the cities and towns of Fort Frances, Dryden, Kenora, Rainy River, Atikokan, Ignace, Tannin, Redditt, Quibell, Hudson, Sioux Lookout, Goldpines, Red Lake and Watcomb.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Arnott moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry; in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; in Tourism and Recreation; that operate in the Northwestern Region including the Regions of Kenora and Rainy River and including the cities and towns of Fort Frances, Dryden, Kenora, Rainy River, Atikokan, Ignace, Tannin, Redditt, Quibell, Hudson, Sioux Lookout, Goldpines, Red Lake and Watcomb.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Arnott's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Wellington have a few opening remarks on his bill? No?

TASK FORCE ON LABOUR RELATIONS ACT REVIEW
AND INQUIRY ACT FOR THE
NORTH BAY REGION OF ONTARIO, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR L'INCIDENCE
DES MODIFICATIONS DE LA LOI
SUR LES RELATIONS DE TRAVAIL DANS LA RÉGION
ONTARIENNE DE NORTH BAY

Mr Sterling moved first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry; in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels, Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; that operate in the North Bay Region including the Counties and Regions of Parry Sound, Algoma and Nipissing and including the cities and towns of Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Noelville, Bonfield, Corbeil, Eau Claire, Mattawa, Phelps, Cache Bay, Verner, Callender, Algonquin Park, Kiosk, Daventry and Ascalon.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Mr Sterling moves first reading of An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act on employment and in particular employment opportunities for women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and workers over the age of forty-five; on investment and in particular investment in new plants or the retrofit of existing plants; on entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial environment; on competitiveness and in particular the competitive tax position of Ontario companies; on productivity and in particular the potential for lost time due to strikes, lock-outs, layoffs and complete or partial plant closures; in the Logging and Forestry Industry; in the Mining Industry; the Sawmill and Planing Mill Products Industry, the Veneer and Plywood Industry, the Prefabricated Wooden Building Industry; Pulp and Paper Industry; the Accommodation, Food and Beverage Service Industries including Hotels, Motels and Tourist Courts, Lodging Houses and Residential Clubs, Camping Grounds and Travel Trailer Parks, and Recreation and Vacation Camps, Restaurants, Take-out Food Services, Caterers, and Taverns, Bars and Night

Clubs; Tourism and Hospitality; that operate in the North Bay Region including the Counties and Regions of Parry Sound, Algoma and Nipissing and including the cities and towns of Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Noelville, Bonfield, Corbeil, Eau Claire, Mattawa, Phelps, Cache Bay, Verner, Callender, Algonquin Park, Kiosk, Daventry and Ascalon.

Is it the pleasure of the House that Mr Sterling's motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Carleton have a few opening remarks on his bill?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Yes, Mr Speaker. This is the last of 20 bills that were introduced by the Progressive Conservative Party today dealing with the lack of knowledge this government is displaying with regard to its introduction of the Labour Relations Act today. It was our attempt today to introduce 20 different pieces of legislation which are peculiar to each area and the industries that affect those areas calling on this government to do an inquiry before we pass the labour relations amendment act which was introduced today to find out what the impacts of that legislation will be on these particular areas.

We believe strongly in supporting the industries that are located in those areas now. We hope we can get new industry into those areas now and we believe this government is turning a blind eye to reality and to the facts by not having proper studies done before it embarks on this very major change to the Labour Relations Act which it has introduced today.

1920

ORDERS OF THE DAY

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF
OTTAWA-CARLETON AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE
D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 123, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton / Loi portant modification de la Loi sur la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): The honourable member for Markham had the floor when this bill was last debated. I do not see the member for Markham, so we continue in the normal rotation. Debate? Do any other members wish to participate? Does the minister want to make some wrapup comments?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I will just move second reading of Bill 123.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Cooke has moved second reading of Bill 123. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I believe I heard a negative.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF
OTTAWA-CARLETON AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1991 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE
D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

Mr Cooke moved third reading of Bill 123, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act / Loi portant modification de la Loi sur la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): Mr Speaker, I have no comments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): As I already had an opportunity to speak on second reading of Bill 123, I was not able to join the debate because it had passed from me.

I only want to indicate that Bill 123 deals with the Ottawa-Carleton area. It allows the Ottawa-Carleton government to charge a tippage fee for waste which is coming to a waste disposal site in the Ottawa-Carleton area from outside the Ottawa-Carleton area. I do not oppose that concept.

I had argued on second reading and was hoping for some cooperation from the minister which would have assured the residents of the Ottawa-Carleton area that any money gained from these tippage fees would not go into the general revenue of the Ottawa-Carleton pot, so to speak, or bank account, but would in fact go to a special sinking fund which would be used for future waste disposal sites, because I believe that was what the intent of the bill was.

I also had the opportunity to write to all of the mayors of the various municipalities I represent: the city of Kanata, the township of Osgoode, the township of Rideau, the township of Gilbert and the township of West Carleton. The city of Kanata came back to me and requested that there be amendment to the bill to make certain and clear that a municipality which was disposing of its waste or garbage into the waste disposal site would not be charged a tippage fee under Bill 123. I don't think that's the intention of the bill.

I think what is perhaps more galling to me as a member, and perhaps I'm being oversensitive, which I am rarely, is that after debate on this particular piece of legislation in December I recognized that there was some urgency with regard to this bill, so on December 12 of this year I wrote to Peter Clark, the chairman of the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, who had just been recently elected at that point in time, and sent him copies of my remarks in the Legislature and asked him to respond to my concerns. I did not receive a response from Mr Clark; I received a phone call from Doug Cameron, who is the solicitor for the region, in April, three months later. So while the region is indicating there is some urgency with regard to this bill, there wasn't enough importance for it to respond to my request for some three months.

On April 15 I had to send again the same information I sent to the regional chairman with regard to my concerns, and also the concerns of the city of Kanata. On May 7 I sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the House

leader, a copy of the concerns of the city of Kanata. I have yet to receive a response from the minister with regard to the concerns of the city of Kanata with regard to this legislation. I find that a very arrogant attitude on the part of this government not to respond to either members' letters or to a municipality's letter.

I guess what tops it all off is that on May 14 a letter was sent to me by Peter Clark, the regional chairman, who does not refer to my letter of December 12 because I guess he was embarrassed in responding to my letter some five months later. But I think it's of interest, particularly to the Ottawa-Carleton members, with regard to Mr Clark's perception of the role of opposition members in this Legislature. For unfortunately, or fortunately, whichever way you want to look at it, within the Ottawa-Carleton area we have one government member, the member for Ottawa Centre, but we have seven opposition members who are as interested with regard to the wellbeing of Ottawa-Carleton, I submit, as the member for Ottawa Centre.

This is what Peter Clark says to me as an opposition member, "With that history in mind, it is not appropriate for Ottawa-Carleton legislation to be introduced by an opposition member, amended by an opposition member, as you propose, or initiated by Ottawa-Carleton directly by private bill as we might on occasion be tempted to do."

If Peter Clark is interested in limiting his options in the future as to what he might want to propose on private legislation, so be it.

Hon Mr Cooke: He's a good friend of the Conservative Party.

Mr Sterling: But I'll tell you this, Mr Speaker: Mr Peter Clark is going to cross swords with me very soon. Even though he has, from time to time, indicated that he is of the same party colour as I, I do not care. Mr Peter Clark better learn that I do not intend to sit here passively when legislation comes forward on Ottawa-Carleton. I will continue to represent my municipalities, my area, as the city of Kanata has wanted me to do on this particular occasion. I find his remarks arrogant and out of line.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I don't profess to know a great deal about this bill. I know that were he here my friend the member for Ottawa West would probably want to say some things. I must say that the extraordinary nature of the evening sitting makes that difficult, if not impossible.

I never thought I'd live long enough to hear my friend from Manotick throw down the gauntlet with such a declaratory quality as he did into the face of the newly elected regional chair for Ottawa-Carleton. As I said to my friend from Manotick, I'm quite prepared to print the tickets and rent the hall for the encounter.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I'll buy one.

Mr Conway: The member for Ottawa Centre is even prepared to at least buy a ticket. It's not like our friend from Manotick to be so querulous in so far as dealing with members of his own family is concerned. I would not want the departure to pass unobserved.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments? The honourable member for Carleton has two minutes in response.

Mr Sterling: I have no response.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on third reading of Bill 123?

Seeing none, Mr Cooke has moved third reading of Bill 123. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

1930

POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société de l'électricité.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Debate on third reading of Bill 118. Mr Jordan, the member for Lanark-Renfrew, had the floor when this bill was last debated. I do not see the honourable member for Lanark-Renfrew present. We will therefore proceed with normal rotation. The honourable member for Sarnia.

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): I'd like to begin this evening by thanking all the members of the standing committee on resources development for their enthusiastic interest in Bill 118 and especially all those groups and individuals that appeared before the committee. I would also like to thank the member for Ottawa South and the member for Lanark-Renfrew for their active participation and usually constructive contributions to the hearings.

When this government took office in the fall of 1990, it announced its intention to point Ontario in new energy directions. Where electricity is concerned, the new directions emphasize the need to control demand so as to reduce Ontario's need to keep building costly new supply. Ontario Hydro has been assigned a key role in carrying out that strategy, and that is why this House is being asked to approve Bill 118. It will free Hydro's hands to make a full contribution to demand management in Ontario.

As members are aware, the utility plans to invest \$6 billion over the course of this decade on measures to promote energy efficiency and conservation, making it the biggest demand management effort of any utility in North America. By the end of the decade, Hydro's program is expected to produce a total electricity saving of around 5,000 megawatts. That is equivalent to the peak output of 1.5 nuclear stations the size of Darlington.

Considering that the bill for one Darlington currently stands at \$14 billion and counting, the \$6 billion Hydro intends to spend on demand management is clearly a bargain. It confirms what we have been saying all along. When it comes to meeting Ontario's electricity needs, demand management is the least-cost option. This becomes clear when we look at the mathematics of just one demand management measure, fuel substitution.

Hydro estimates that encouraging electricity users to turn to other fuels, where that is in the interest of both Hydro and the customer, will reduce electricity demand by over 1,000 megawatts by the end of the decade. That saving is equivalent to the peak output of one of the nuclear reactors at Darlington. In other words, that is a reactor that won't have to be built. It's a cost of construction that will never have to show up in our electricity rates.

That's the longer-term consideration, but for householders the saving is immediate; it begins the moment fuel switching takes place. It's estimated that switching from electricity to natural gas reduces heating and hot water bills by two thirds; switching to oil reduces the cost by one third. Over the life of a typical two-storey home, replacing electricity with natural gas will reduce space heating and hot water costs by an estimated \$15,000; switching to oil will bring a saving of around \$7,000.

Quite clearly, fuel substitution holds the promise of very important savings for householders in Ontario. Where fuel substitution promises direct benefits to householders, demand management as a whole promises very direct benefits to the Ontario economy. To begin with, it reduces energy costs for business and industry. That makes our goods and services more competitive in world markets and contributes to Ontario's economic recovery.

Demand management carries another economic benefit that is sometimes overlooked. I'm referring to its potential for encouraging investment and job creation in Ontario. This happens on two levels. First, measures to control electricity demand directly stimulate or encourage investment in energy-efficient products and services. Second, by reducing energy costs for business and industry as well as ordinary households, demand management frees up money and makes it available for spending and investment in other areas.

We don't have to be economists to know that spending and investment translates into jobs. Of the \$6 billion Hydro is investing in demand management by the end of this decade, almost \$600 million is to be spent between 1992 and 1993. According to Hydro's calculations, this spending will create or help to sustain over 19,000 jobs a year over the course of this decade.

Hydro is carrying out a series of demand management programs. For example, it plans to spend \$173 million this year and next on residential programs. Upgrading homes across the province will create jobs in renovation and construction and in our manufacturing sector. Hydro's programs will also stimulate purchases of home improvement products and efficient appliances. Still more jobs will be created in the commercial and industrial sectors. Over the course of the decade, Hydro programs already approved and those awaiting approval have the potential to create or sustain an estimated 190,000 person-years of employment.

In particular, Hydro's projected spending can be expected to provide an important boost to Ontario's green industry. This is an exciting, high-tech sector, based on creating and providing new products and services devoted to energy efficiency, conservation and pollution prevention. Although the industry is relatively new, it already

employs close to 30,000 people and produces sales of \$2 billion a year.

It is growing, as we saw in January when General Electric Canada made its big announcement. As members will remember, the company is going to spend \$144 million to start making energy-efficient lighting products at its Oakville plant. That decision, helped along by an Ontario government loan, will help secure up to 550 existing jobs and is expected to create nearly 200 new jobs, and because the company has a world mandate for the new lighting products, there will be significant export earnings as well.

Hydro's demand management program will contribute to the further growth of our green industry. In doing that, it will help create and protect the high-tech jobs we need in Ontario and help generate the export earnings we also need. The measures contained in Bill 118 will help nourish this fledgling industry by allowing Hydro to expand its demand management efforts, just as they will help Hydro to cut electricity costs for householders and the economy as a whole. The benefits of Bill 118 are many, and it is clear that Ontario needs this bill.

I want to dwell for a few moments on Ontario Hydro and the issue of accountability and policy directives.

Hydro is a statutory corporation and the government is accountable to the Legislature and the public for Hydro's activities. The government must be able to ensure Hydro accountability and provide policy direction to Hydro. It has to do that, because Hydro's actions have a major impact on the environment and Hydro can provide a leadership role in meeting the environmental priorities of the people of Ontario. Hydro's activities can have a significant impact on the province's economy. These amendments to the Power Corporation Act will allow Hydro and the government to work more effectively to meet these priorities.

The people of Ontario have expressed a need for increased Hydro accountability and greater responsiveness by Hydro to public concerns and needs. Indeed, this government was elected with the mandate to steer Ontario in new energy directions and to increase Hydro accountability to the people of Ontario.

These amendments to the Power Corporation Act meet the public's desire for increased Hydro accountability. Our goal is not so much to increase control but to make Hydro more responsive to public priorities and government policies. We have accomplished this with these amendments.

These amendments allow Hydro to move in new directions. They allow Hydro to place greater emphasis on energy efficiency and equip Hydro to pursue lower-cost solutions to meeting the province's energy needs. The appointment of the Deputy Minister of Energy to the Hydro board of directors will facilitate liaison and advice on government policy and public concerns.

1940

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Drink water, raise right arm.

Mr Huget: It's good stuff, Mr Speaker. Some have asked, why appoint the deputy minister to the board if that person can't vote? The answer is very simple. The deputy minister's non-voting role removes any possibility of con-

flict of interest between the deputy's responsibility as a board member and the deputy's responsibility for advising the minister, who is responsible for Hydro.

I would like to address the provision where the chairperson of the corporation will also be the chief executive officer. There is nothing new here. It simply restores the position to its status between 1906 and 1989. This government feels it is the most effective way to structure the corporation. Restoring that status is also consistent with the position in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. In all of those provinces the chair is also the chief executive officer.

Hydro has historically had two top executive positions: a chair and a president. The chair is primarily responsible for long-term planning and policy setting. The president is primarily responsible for operations and the day-to-day performance of the electricity system. The senior executive level at Hydro was reorganized in the summer of 1991 to ensure that both these areas receive proper attention. The chair and chief executive officer, Marc Eliesen, is responsible for strategic planning functions, overall policy direction for the corporation and the implementation of the government's policy priorities including new energy directions.

To reflect these responsibilities, the following departments report directly to the chair: finance, energy management, aboriginal and native affairs, human resources, new business ventures division, the executive office and the audit office. The president and chief operating officer, Alan Holt, continues to report to the chair but is directly responsible for operations and production, supply and distribution. A key responsibility of the president will be to improve the operation of Hydro nuclear plants. Nuclear plant capability has deteriorated in recent years from a planned 80% availability to a 69% availability in 1991. Improving this figure to the planned level of 80% would result in savings to Hydro ratepayers of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Let me address the issue of policy directives. This act is being changed to remove ambiguities in the current legislation about the roles of government and Hydro, to clarify that the government sets the policy direction and Hydro carries out that policy and to clarify that Hydro retains responsibility for effective management of its day-to-day operations.

The new act will also require the government to consult with the Hydro board on the content and effect of policy directives. This reflects the board's important role and responsibility in ensuring that the needs of the people of Ontario are met in the best possible way.

There has been criticism regarding the change from the government issuing a policy statement to the new "government may issue a policy directive." A directive power is not radical. Providing the government with a directive power is certainly not new. The Financial Administration Act enables the federal government to direct its public corporations.

Hydro has always been able to play a role in implementing government policy. However, a complex set of

procedures and approvals had to be satisfied first. This hindered the efficient implementation of policies that were designed to meet the energy needs of this province.

To avoid these problems, previous governments often provided informal policy direction in closed-door sessions with Hydro senior management. What we are doing is simplifying the process and opening the door to full public view.

The board of directors is responsible for the business and affairs of the corporation. Nothing in Bill 118 changes that. Amendments to the act clarify the government's responsibility for giving broad policy directions to Ontario Hydro. The government has a mandate to ensure that Hydro is provided with the appropriate legislative framework to assist the government in implementing its new energy policies.

When the bill was introduced, there was concern about the scope of these directives. This government listened to those concerns and introduced changes during clause-by-clause that clarified the government's intent to give policy direction to Hydro on matters within the scope and mandate of Hydro as set out in the Power Corporation Act. During clause-by-clause hearings, this government introduced a motion that requires the Minister of Energy to publish policy directives in the Ontario Gazette and to give notice to all members of this assembly. This government is open and accountable and has nothing to hide.

Hydro and the government must work together to implement Ontario's new energy directions. The focus of this policy is to concentrate more of our resources on controlling growth in demand for energy and to ensure that we use energy efficiently. Bill 118 provides the framework for this new partnership and removes barriers to the implementation of the government's new energy directions. This bill will benefit all Ontarians now and in the future. Bill 118 is good for Hydro and good for consumers, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Questions and/or comments? Further debate.

Interjection.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): I say to my friend from Orono, no, not much history tonight, but there's going to be some recent history that I think you might enjoy.

I want to say right at the outset that I think the member for Sarnia has done an extremely good job in working this bill through the second reading stage. I hope I don't sound patronizing when I say that, but I thought he did an excellent job and was an exemplary member of the Legislature throughout the entire process.

I say it because, quite frankly, the conduct of the Chairman of this committee was something other than exemplary. I don't like to accuse people in their absence, but I'll tell you, the conduct of the member from Welland—who is an individual of not inconsiderable talent and intellect—as Chairman of that committee during the time I had the opportunity to serve on it was a very difficult diet. I'll say no more than that. I thought I'd seen it all until I saw his conduct in the so-called Martel committee.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): We weren't that bad.

Mr Conway: No, the member for Chatham-Kent wasn't that bad. In fact, he was quite good. He was better than I was on occasion. But to see the member from Welland expectorating, to put it mildly, in the face of witnesses, and doing other indelicacies that I would not want to take the time of the House to repeat is for me just a sad reminder of how lots of talent can sometimes find itself sadly misdirected. I'm telling you, I sat through some of the hearings on Bill 118 and felt almost embarrassed to be there. I sorrowfully make those comments in the absence of the Chairman; I just want to say that for my own benefit, if for no one else's.

1950

The hearings: I think Bill 118 has to be understood in terms of some of the public hearings. The members who have spoken on this third reading debate, my colleague the member for Ottawa South, my partner in Renfrew county, the member for Lanark-Renfrew, Mr Jordan, who spoke yesterday on this have spoken—and my friend from north Wellington will say something, I'm sure—about what we heard and where we went.

We went to some interesting places, and I think all of the places I've been to on many occasions. I don't ever remember a committee where we ordinarily rose at 4 o'clock in the morning, I think it was, to head out from places like Sioux Lookout to arrive in Timmins, I remember, one January morning when it was 40 below zero. It was a very hospitable and very interesting and educational tour as we travelled from Toronto to Ottawa, to Chatham, to Guelph, to Thunder Bay, to Timmins, and to Sioux Lookout. Those were all interesting places, and there were some others I suppose I'm missing.

I was struck by where we didn't go. We didn't go to places like Bancroft and Alexandria and Moose Creek. I'm not being funny. We didn't go to a whole swath of rural Ontario, which has no access to natural gas. That was not accidental, and I understand why the steering committee could not find the time to go to places in rural Ontario where there is no natural gas. Those were not venues where one wanted to make oneself too available, because, I'll tell you, in places like Bancroft and Haliburton and Alexandria and Almonte and Victoria Harbour, this bill and, more important, the policy that informs it become of more interest and greater relevance with the passing of each day.

What did we hear as we travelled around to places like Guelph and Chatham and Ottawa? It was interesting that, for some reason, at the Chateau Laurier that day in January or February, whenever it was, the elements seemed to conspire to make it appropriately cold. I've spent many a day in the Chateau Laurier Hotel; I don't ever remember being as chilly as I was in that meeting room for a long day at the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

We heard a number of people there, as elsewhere, speak to what I would broadly characterize as the two solitudes. This was, as the energy debate has been for so many years, a wonderfully religious debate. We had those

who came forward largely from the environmental and the native communities, but the environmental community most especially, singing te deums of praise to this wise policy at long last. It was their view that Bill 118, as the member for Peterborough, who introduced it, observed, was a very important turning of the road in the energy policy of the province; that we were forsaking the supply-side obsession of Bill Davis and David Peterson and all that Liberal-Conservative establishment that's run this province for a long, long time; that we were embracing the softer alternatives of energy conservation and demand management. This, they said, was a very good thing.

We had of course, to my very considerable surprise, entrepreneurs, capitalists from the gas companies, the oil companies, who also thought this was a very good bill and an exceedingly attractive policy. They spoke feelingly and without any thought of vested interest. The gas companies, the oil companies came to us in Chatham and in Ottawa and said, "This is virtue itself and, with no regard to benefit, it should be endorsed."

Then of course, we had on the other side other capitalists, other entrepreneurs who said, "This is a very worrisome policy, and it's a worrisome policy on a number of fronts." They said that the fuel-switching initiatives were ill-considered, that the demand management targets were pie in the sky. They thought the directive power, even as it was going to be restrained by the government amendment, was still open to the kind of application as had been seen last year in Elliot Lake and in Kapuskasing, and this was a very, very upsetting possibility and reality to those individuals.

I cannot easily calibrate the fervour with which those people who came forward with an anti-nuclear point of view embraced this policy, because I'll tell you, they were extremely pleased we would have no more nuclear power—no more at all. Several witnesses came forward, sometimes under friendly cross-examination, to tell the story of Darlington generating station.

In fact, my friend the parliamentary assistant, the member for Sarnia, has done a little bit of that tonight. I don't fault the government at all for that. In fact, I stand in my place tonight and think, where are the architects of that decision? It is true the government of which I was a part made a decision to complete that work. I want you to know I certainly supported that decision, though I had been critical of the original Darlington decision, not because it was a nuclear plant but because I thought it was altogether too large a plant, both in terms of the technology and the capital required.

Mr Stockwell: Where are those architects?

Mr Conway: Yes, where are those architects? You see, they're gone: Bill Davis is gone, Darcy McKeough is gone, Bob Welch is gone. I don't want to sound maudlin. That's the interesting thing about these kinds of decisions. In the kind of electoral politics in which we now find ourselves, I suppose we can all take comfort in the knowledge that when that which we now sow bears fruit, we too will be gone. It will fall to another generation of legislators

to explain the wisdom and the incompleteness, perhaps even the error, of our decision-making.

The SkyDome: another classic example of where I think, in retrospect, we probably made some mistakes.

I only mention that because I can remember in this place over the years the fervour with which the proponents of the Darlington brought their case here and to the people. It wasn't as though it was brought in under cover of darkness. It was done in the broad light of day, with one, if not two, electoral sanctions. I remind my friends opposite that Darlington was a centrepiece. The acceleration of Darlington was the centrepiece of the economic program of the Davis Progressive Conservatives in I think the election of 1977; maybe it was 1981. It was one of those. BILD, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, had as one of its centrepieces the acceleration of Darlington.

I can remember having some critical things to say about that. I remember the night on March 19, 1981, when that policy and its proponents won the day. As a democrat, of course, I accept that verdict. I well remember what was said afterwards about the rightness of that decision and the democratic sanction that it had received. There was no time and no truck nor trade with those carping oppositionists who did not understand the full weight of opportunity that ideology contained. I'll tell you, they worked a wonderful magic. They could do so because, of course, they were inspired by the fervour that only ideology allows one to have.

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Back to the hearings: What did we hear? Can I talk briefly about three or four of the submissions? Because I think they raise some very important points.

There has been much talk in this debate about demand management and conservation, and I take it as a given, particularly in this week where straw persons seem to be the order of the day. I tell you, we have a Premier who this week seems, in a wonderfully aggressive and Socratic way, to want to take every piece of straw he can find and construct a whole army of straw persons. Let me say in this connection that I don't think there is anyone I've ever met who could be opposed to energy conservation and demand management. There is probably a debate about the extent to which one can achieve those objectives. There will be a debate about how one gets there. There might even be a debate about the nature of your commitment. But I don't think I've ever met anybody, particularly in the last 15 years—I haven't met too many people who say to me, "You know, energy conservation is a bad thing and demand management is a stupid thing."

But it's interesting to listen to what people have to say when one goes out to talk to the community, as we did in this exercise. I found it very interesting that three major businesses in the province came to us and said, "We accept what you're telling us about the need to conserve energy." But in three cases—there were others, but three that really stuck with me were one presentation in Guelph from ICI, formerly CIL, the presentation in Timmins from Inco, and the presentation at that chilly meeting room in the Chateau Laurier from Ivaco Steel of L'Orignal, all of which made the same point: "We accept the efficacy of energy conservation,

and we've done it. Over the course of X number of years we, as major employers in Sudbury, in Cornwall, in Courtright and in L'Orignal, have made significant energy reductions. But within the overall envelope of substantially reduced energy consumption, our electricity portion has risen significantly."

I'm going to let these witnesses tell their story very briefly, because I realize the hour is late. I want to take you through the CIL presentation, ICI, that we heard in Guelph; let me just read from some of that testimony. "ICI, also well known under its previous name of CIL, employs over 3,000 people in Canada, making and/or selling mining explosives, chemicals for Canada's pulp and paper industry, pharmaceuticals, paints, fertilizers, and so on." I think we all know who CIL is.

"Of ICI's sites in Ontario, two are major electricity consumers. One is in Cornwall, the other is in Courtright." Which is where? Courtright, where is that? I should know that. Is it the place just up here north of Kleinberg? I apologize for my ignorance in that respect, but two plants, one at Cornwall, one at Courtright.

"Electricity is a crucial input and cost at these sites, and totals approximately \$20 million and nearly 20% of the manufacturing costs. Employment at these two sites is 530 people.

"The ICI Courtright ammonia plant has reduced its energy use per tonne of ammonia by over 30% in the last decade by replacing an old technology plant with a new technology plant.

"The new Courtright plant achieved high energy efficiency by reducing its natural gas needs and increasing its electricity consumption several times over, in comparison to the older, less energy-efficient plant."

The presenter from CIL then goes on to observe: "In spite of our high energy efficiency, ICI in Ontario finds itself at a cost disadvantage on all energy forms relative to our US competitors." I thought this was an interesting observation, and I don't hold this out as system-wide, but we heard some other testimony which made the similar point.

He said that his colleague at ICI Cornwall observed the following: "A recent report studying power costs for a number of chloralkali plants in North America showed Cornwall's power costs were about 10% higher" than any other plant in Canada or the United States.

Just remember that as I turn then to the presentation by Inco at Sudbury. Again, I thought some of what they had to say was interesting. I remember, in 1978 I think it was, I served on a select committee with a number of people. My friend the former member for Sudbury East and I had some interesting times in that, where we were looking basically at the kind of restructuring and downsizing that Inco was going through. I'll never forget that, because I was stunned by the amount of energy that is consumed in that kind of major resource extractor. So at Timmins we got an update, at least I got a bit of an update, of what had happened in the intervening decade. In the submission by Inco on January 15, 1992, the following observations were made.

"Inco is a substantial user of energy, accounting for about 1% of both natural gas and electric power consump-

tion in Ontario." That gives you some idea of the magnitude of their energy bill. "Natural gas is used for mine air heating, building heating and process applications. Electricity is used for everything from mine pumping, ventilation and hoisting, to electrolytic refining and oxygen production. The latter is used in high-temperature metallurgical application and is a key element of Inco's \$600-million sulphur dioxide abatement program"—an environmental program, I think we would all agree.

They go on in this presentation—I don't want to read too much of it, but essentially they make the same point, that while their total energy bill has come down and come down significantly, within that reduced energy envelope the electricity portion has gone up and gone up significantly. They provide charts to make that point.

"As chart 1 indicates," Inco observes, "Inco's use of electric power is increasing, while its other forms of energy are decreasing. Natural gas will continue to decline with conversion to new flash-smelting processes. Electricity use," on the other hand, has increased over the 1980s "and is expected to increase substantially by 1995. This is because other forms of energy are being saved by using electricity. An example of this is the use of oxygen in high-temperature applications, which are extremely energy-efficient but require a great deal of electric power to produce the necessary oxygen.

"In 1991 the Ontario division of Inco spent \$92.3 million for energy. Of this, \$61.5 million was for purchased electric power." Not all of which came from Hydro, by the way; they generate some of their own. Interestingly, they now observe that their Manitoba electric costs are less.

They also point out in this submission that Inco's Ontario division "is presently in or actively considering over 40 conservation projects with Ontario Hydro and the Ministry of Energy."

"Despite these efforts, Inco's electricity use will increase, not decrease, in the future." I remind you, they are projecting a significant increase in electricity consumption in their Ontario operations in the first five years of this decade, 1991-95, the same point as CIL or ICI: a substantial reduction in energy consumption, but within that a significantly increased electricity consumption.

Then we have the submission of Ivaco. Let me just read what the submission indicated; this is the submission to the committee on January 16 in Ottawa by Ivaco Rolling Mills of Ontario. Just to give you a little background, Ivaco is a steel producer with 52 plants all together; 21 of those are in the United States, one is in Australia and 30 are in Canada. Sixteen of the 30 Canadian plants are in Ontario. Total employment is about 8,400; 2,100 of those jobs are in Ontario and 550 are employed in a wonderful little community, the old county seat of Prescott, I think it is, L'Orignal, just outside of Hawkesbury, a big employer in rural, small-town eastern Ontario.

In 1991, Ivaco purchased \$13 million worth of electricity. That was 20% of their cost of making steel, a big input cost. But because they operate in Ontario and other parts of North America, they clearly have to pay some regard to competitive costs. I remind you that Inco is now saying electricity costs in Ontario are higher and becoming higher

still vis-à-vis Manitoba. Ivaco is telling us they have an operation in the Hawkesbury area of eastern Ontario and they also have an operation in Cartersville, Georgia.

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Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): Carters, Georgia?

Mr Conway: Pardon me? No, because I can understand. I don't hold it up as everything, but I'll tell you, there was a pattern here and I'll come to it a little bit later. I think I heard the member for Niagara Falls rightly observe what's happening in her part of the province. Why does one imagine that those explosives and abrasives industries located on the Niagara frontier to start with? My friend from Orono is quite right when he observes quietly "Cheap power." Ivaco in eastern Ontario says Ontario already has some of the highest power costs in Canada. "At our facility"—in L'Orignal—"we pay over 18% more for electricity than our...steelmaking operation in Cartersville, Georgia," and they have no sweetheart deal in Georgia, they go on to observe.

My point in citing these submissions is obvious. When we talk about the virtues of conservation, I think we have a very receptive audience and it's becoming larger all the time. But there is more to this policy than meets the eye. Because I'm not very technological, I find a lot of that testimony paradoxical. It does not recommend itself to my common sense. It seems to me unusual that you could reduce your energy consumption substantially, but somehow within that have a substantially increased electricity component. But it's happening and it's happening in important places apparently, in major bedrock industries in this province which employ thousands of people. The representatives of those companies said, mostly off the record, "We are very concerned about where we think this is going."

Ivaco is right on the Ottawa River. Quebec is just across the river from them. There is no question that we face a very real concern there that is to be taken account of. I do not honestly believe the policy that informs this legislation has come to grips with that.

One of the other things I just made a note of, because it was part of the religion of this debate—and there was a lot of religion on both sides. I have to be fair. I didn't include in the *antis* the Municipal Electrical Association and the local chapters. We just had no little bit of: "Whatever happened to Adam Beck and power at cost? We are very concerned about what seems to be a new direction." I think it has to be said to people like the MEA and others, "Well, there is a new government and it has promised a new direction."

I think we will come later in this discussion this evening to whether or not the time is here to perhaps have a very close look at the cost of power and how we define the input costs. But one of the most interesting elements of the debate for me had to do with presenters and some friendly cross-examination, which would generally go like this: "Well, now, demand management and energy conservation are very good, because did you know that Bob Franklin, former CEO of Ontario Hydro, wrote a letter once and said that it costs Hydro \$50,000 to keep a house warm that is

heated electrically? I mean, \$50,000 just to keep one house electrically heated." I'm paraphrasing. "Now, don't you just think that's terrible?" It got to such a point that someone—I forget who it was—said, "Maybe we better just get a clarification."

We got a clarification from Hydro. Now, this is the latest clarification and it may change, but it turns out that Mr Franklin did not say or mean to say that the cost of keeping an electrically heated home and business was \$50,000 a year, I think it might have been, but in fact someplace between \$7,000 and \$12,000.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: The member for London Centre rightly wonders, and so do the rest of us. My only point is, this is the joy of this debate. The ideologues say: "Did you know, \$50,000 a year to just keep enough juice there to have the home electrically heated? Isn't that a scandal? Isn't that a crime against the planet? We have no less an authority than the former CEO of Ontario Hydro as our expert." When we got the clarification, it was not \$50,000 but someplace between \$7,000 and \$12,000.

I only make the point that this debate today is, as it has always been, full of passionate advocates for a variety of positions, and information is often advanced that turns out not to be true. I believe Billy Davis believed that Darlington would only cost \$3 billion or \$4 billion. He's an honourable fellow. I have to believe that Adam Beck honestly thought the first plant at the first major Hydro works at Queenston would be, as he said, \$10 million, not the \$72 million that it cost at the end of the day.

But I just want to warn members of the assembly that this is one of those cases, this is one of those policies that is central to the economic and social wellbeing of this province, and at the end of the day, my colleagues opposite are right. We are the ones who will be held accountable. I can only speak for myself. The older I get, the more experience I get—

Mr Hope: Some of us argue that point.

Mr Conway: That's a fair point, but if I'm going to be held accountable, then I'm going to say my piece, and I'm going to mean as much of this as I possibly can on the basis of the evidence I have before me.

But electricity, and this probably will be a very poor analogy, is almost like the blood system in a human being. It is everywhere, it touches everything, and we are very imprudent if we fail to understand just how important this policy is not just for today but for tomorrow. For those of us here today, we now get to explain what our friends of a previous generation did or did not do. It's a lot of fun, isn't it, explaining that Darlington's gone from \$4 billion to \$14 billion? I don't want to be disingenuous. I know there are some factors that were beyond the utility's control and beyond the government's control.

I promise not to be too historical, but I have read in the last few months a fascinating book, and I think I made some reference to the character before.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I like the history.

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Mr Conway: Well, I tell you, if you don't do anything else over the next few weeks, those of you with an interest in Hydro, read those sections of the new Hepburn biography that concern Hydro.

One of my former colleagues, a very distinguished Minister of Justice and Hydro minister for this province, Arthur Roebuck, became very famous in the Senate with his wing collar and his long life. According to Jack Saywell's recently published biography, when it came to Hydro, he was fanatical to the point of madness. He took his government to the brink of absolute disaster, because he was fixated on what he believed were the thoroughly corrupt private power contracts that had been negotiated by Howard Ferguson a few years before he took office.

He believed that as he believed nothing in his life, and he pushed Hydro and he pushed the Legislature and he pushed the government to the absolute brink of disaster. He was a very smart, very experienced individual, but on the subject of the Quebec Hydro contracts, he was irrational, he was, I think, according to that portrayal, madness itself, and it was at the very last moment that his Premier and a few other people realized just how close to trouble they were.

Now, I know that's a long time ago and you'd say it could never happen again, but one of the things about this debate is that it does have a recurring theme. As I say, when you talk about the scandalous overruns at Darlington, you're right, but in terms of an order of magnitude, they're somewhat less than Beck's first great works at Queenston. I'm going to come a little bit later to the end of megaprojects. Somebody said the Dome, and I take the criticism directly.

But I look at this policy, and what do I see? I see in it a commitment to spend \$6 billion for the virtuous purposes of demand management and energy conservation, but I'm just going to tell my friends from Oxford and Orono and elsewhere, \$6 billion ain't chicken feed. That's a lot of money. That is a very considerable amount of money, and I just want to make the point a little bit later on that we are responsible and we better have some answers if some of the early returns produce a pattern. I'm going to talk about some of the early returns in a moment.

I want to at this juncture talk a little bit about the amendments, and I congratulate the member for Sarnia, because I think it is fair to say the government did listen. They did listen and they accepted a number of amendments, I think very wisely so. They deserve credit for that and I give it to them, I hope honestly.

The amendments have already been talked about, and I don't want to go on at any great length, but the amendment which curtailed the directive power to the purposes of Ontario Hydro is what the government always intended and of course now it's clear. I can remember as a minister of the crown desperately searching through a statute for a way to do something we had all agreed to do and for which there was no apparent legal authority, so I know only too well what an executive is faced with in the heat of the moment when you are trying to find legal cause for what you have committed to doing. In that case, it was of

course a happy three-party agreement on a matter of some major public interest.

At any rate, the government has now accepted an amendment to curtail the direct power to apply only to the purposes of the corporation. There is the public notice of any directive, and I think that's also very helpful, and of course, one of my favourite little peccadilloes, the amendment that touches upon the chairman and the chief executive officer, a peccadillo to which I will momentarily return.

Mr Hope: No, Sean, not again.

Mr Conway: Well, no, because I'm reporting back on what I think are the early returns, and you will dispute this and it's fair ball.

There were a number of amendments the government chose not to favour. I can understand why they wouldn't want to do so, but I will make a bit of a case, I hope, for a contrary view.

There was the amendment placed by my friend the member for Ottawa South, which I call the due diligence clause for directors of the corporation. That is a very typical provision mandated upon directors in the province under the Ontario Business Corporations Act. It's not going to apply in this case.

The amendment to restrict conservation initiatives to the electrical area was not favoured, nor was the amendment to cause a costing of any conservation initiative favoured by the government.

Where does this leave us, then, with the bill as amended? The bill is substantially as it was, I think, from the point of view of the government. I think there were some helpful amendments around the edges, but the bill is, by and large, as it was when introduced here a year ago tomorrow.

I was thinking, as I prepared tonight's comments, about the beginning of this beginning. Government members have rightly highlighted this over and over again. The member for Sarnia observed these ingredients in his speech a few moments ago, and that is that we want a policy that is a new direction and we want hallmarks of that policy to be openness and accountability. Three cheers for that. It's true, as has been observed, that over the years governments have not always done their Hydro business in the full light of day.

I was struck—it was really interesting, by the way—by a piece the Toronto Star had on June 1, 1992. They're running this historical business. I noticed they had a piece about Premier Drury reducing his salary by \$3,000. That left Adam Beck the best-paid public servant in the province. That's not what caught my eye. What caught my eye was that in 1919 he received a salary of \$12,000, half of which was paid by the province, the other half by the utilities. I thought that was an interesting comment.

It's certainly true of one of the great Ontario dictators, Adam Beck, that he didn't believe in the kind of openness and accountability that I think the government imagines. He would have done very well with the NDP, actually. Adam Beck had a *modus operandi* that paralleled the modern NDP. I don't fault him for that. He was the master of

working the special interests and the populace in ways that I've always admired about the NDP. Adam Beck, although he was a member of this Legislature from the distinguished city of London, never really had much time for the Legislature and even less time for his Premier and cabinet colleagues.

Over the years the history is replete with examples of the Premier's office—to be frank, and I want to be very clear, for most of the 20th century the de facto Minister of Energy was the Premier, and there have been some very interesting examples of that.

We have the perfectly understandable and laudable objectives of this government, newly elected, for a new direction with openness—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: You're observing that there aren't very many people here. I was hoping somebody would do that, because that is the delicious irony of this. Adam Beck and his later-day apostle, Marc Eliesen, couldn't have written a better script. You see, this is the way it ought to be. There ought to be no one here. In fact, it would make me feel better if you all left because it would be a fitting tribute to the reality, not the rhetoric. Ideally this kind of bill passes with nobody here and nobody paying attention. It's damn tough, highly complex and very technological. I'm going to—

Mr Hope: We're listening to you, Sean.

Mr Conway: Just give me a moment. So we've got new directions around demand management, no more megaprojects and a theological commitment, which only new puritans could manufacture, that there will be no more nuclear. I don't accept that but I understand it. Obviously the NDP has a right to that view. To be fair, it's been their view since at least the days when they believed in the common pause day and public auto insurance.

We have openness and accountability and new directions. We want political control in the best sense of that word. So what's happened? I mean, I don't agree with some of the ingredients of that, but I'll tell you, it's pretty clear and I can't quarrel.

Political direction: That means the minister and the executive council, with the support of at least the government caucus in the Legislature, are going to provide the direction and the oversight. That's the way I would read it, and I think that's a fair interpretation.

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What has happened in the intervening 363 days since the member for Peterborough rose in her place and made the speech? I have it before me. I'm not going to read it all, but it says some of what I've already said, that in November 1990 the government read a throne speech which called for new energy directions that would concentrate more of our resources and efforts on demand management. We would have a moratorium on new nuclear power stations. We have told Hydro to redirect its spending to conservation. The primary goal, of course, is safe and reliable energy. We've got to open up the process. We've got to accommodate the public's desire to have a greater say in Hydro. And, of course, the board would be

increased in membership. The newly appointed chairman would also be the CEO, the chief executive officer, and there would be a change in the act to allow for fuel substitution etc.

That was the framework. So what's happened? Well, we've had three ministers. We had the member for Peterborough, we had the member for Kitchener and we have the acting minister, the member for Hamilton Mountain, all good people. They are all good people, but three ministers in the space of less than a year, a revolving door, which is, to be fair, not something that could be said of just this government; there's been quite a revolving door at Energy since the days of Darcy McKeough. But three ministers in about 11 months or six months—Brian, when did you become the minister?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): February.

Mr Conway: February. So three ministers in seven or eight months. That's close to a record, and a new deputy, Mr George Davies, and of course a new chairman and chief executive officer. I ask myself—

Mr Hope: Bob's been there all the time.

Mr Conway: Yes, and I say the member for Sarnia has done a very creditable job as the parliamentary assistant.

But three ministers, a new deputy, I think even a new assistant deputy—someone I know well—but most important, a new chairman and chief executive officer.

I ask myself, who's running the store? What's been going on? Now, what do I know? I know this much: I know something about the file that attaches to the Minister of Financial Institutions. I'd say, particularly in a day and age when you're wrestling with public auto insurance—upside, downside, sideways—that's not an uncomplicated business, so he's a very busy fellow, the member from the mountain, the acting Minister of Energy.

What do I know? Well, I just know what I see and what I hear. What did I see? I saw something early on that I might return to, and that's my friend the chairman. I was not the one who said there would be a new day of openness and accountability. My friends opposite have said it repeatedly, and I understand that. So the first case study in the new world, or one of the first, has to do with the pay and perquisites of the chairman and chief executive officer. I don't intend to make an Everest out of that issue, but I think it is an important and symbolic issue in the early days of a new order where openness and accountability and political control are offered up as new directions.

Do you remember the pathetic sight in this place months ago? I'm sorry, because my tone begins to rise and I get really angry about what I saw there, and it's not exclusive to the NDP. I mean, our government was taken for one of the royalest rides of recent history by Bernard Ostry, for example. I tell you, my friends—I mean, talk about scheming, manipulative, self-promoting operatives.

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): He's supposed to be a good Liberal.

Mr Conway: Ah, but that's where you make your mistake, my friends, that's where you make your mistake.

You know, it was once said of imperial Britain that she had no permanent friends and no permanent enemies, just permanent interests. That is exactly the world view of people like Bernard Ostry, who was brought here not by the Liberals but by Hughie Segal.

You think I'm critical? You ought to talk to Frank Miller. Frank Miller had him as a deputy minister for about a month until Frank could stand it no longer. To our discredit, as far as I'm concerned, we took him to our bosom, though some of us made efforts to arrange other possibilities. You know, it's a professional breed of apparatchik. They are loyal only to their own importance and their own centrality in the scheme of things. NDP, Social Credit—I mean, they are the ultimate chameleons. So we have Marc Eliesen.

Listen, I'll make a confession. I was offered the gentleman as a deputy minister. I don't know why, but I just didn't find it possible to accept him as a deputy, though I will say this of Marc: He is a bright, diligent, creative, hardworking person. From the government's point of view, if you want Marc Eliesen as the chairman of Ontario Hydro, that is your democratically won right to so do. I can't complain about that.

Over the years the Tories had Hugh Macaulay and George Gathercole. I mean, there were some pretty prominent partisans. To me that makes sense in that job. I don't agree with my friend the member for Sarnia who made the comment about the policy role of the chairman. The chairman's job historically has been simply to liaise with the government, to be the political connection. The chief executive officer has had the office of chief operating person.

In our case, after Tom Campbell left we took a chief executive officer, Bob Franklin, and made him chairman as well. I thought that was not a bad choice, but I can see how other people might want to do it differently. But I certainly do not think it makes any sense to take a political person who's properly made chairman and then make that person the chief operating officer for one of the country's most complex and significant corporations, if for no other reason than the health of the corporation. Because you know perfectly well that should—God forbid—the fates intervene at election time and the government be washed out to sea and a new party be entrusted with the responsibilities of office, that person is then a likely candidate for being removed.

It's one thing to remove the chairman, but if you start moving the chief executive officer out as well, because he or she is perceived as a political person, I submit to you that human resources people looking at big corporations would tell you: "Don't do that. You run a very real risk of a major management difficulty." But I don't want to get off on that track. I've said that before.

Let's go back to what we saw last fall. It was actually one of the environmental groups which said, "Did you know that the new chairman, who was happily employed months or weeks ago at the rate of about \$125,000 or \$130,000 as the Deputy Minister of Energy, has summoned up enough reserve to suggest that he be paid \$400,000 as the chairman and chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro?"

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My old friend Stephen Lewis had a word that used to roll mellifluously from his lips from time to time, and it is the word to describe that kind of strike. Stephen Lewis would say, "That's chutzpah with a capital C." That is a grab for income that I think most of my NDP friends would recoil from, if for no other reason than with very few exceptions there would be at least enough shame to prevent them from being so extravagant. But not Marc Eliesen. Of course, it became public and then the debate in here began. It became interesting because Bill 118 had an amendment that has been—

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Did it never happen with your caucus, Sean?

Mr Conway: We've got lots of sins, but I don't think I can find another example where there was such a brazen grab for power and income as that grab. I mention it because, of course, the original bill did something I thought was very peculiar in light of the government's objectives. The government objective was openness and accountability and "We're in charge here."

You remember the original bill? It was going to take away from the cabinet and give to the board the right to set the salary for the chairman of Hydro. I thought, now isn't that peculiar and paradoxical? The rhetoric suggests more political control, which has got to mean the cabinet. Why, if that was your stated aim, would you then turn that responsibility away from the cabinet and over to the board, particularly when you've appointed someone who, apparently without any embarrassment, thought nothing of asking for a tripling of his salary? I submit again, I have no problem with Marc Eliesen being chairman of Ontario Hydro, but I do not think he is qualified to be the chief operating officer of that kind of corporation. I would say that of a lot of other people, myself included. It's a very complex corporation and I just don't think, talented as Marc Eliesen is, he's got the experience and the related qualifications that job requires.

I come back, then, to when this became public. As I say, I was opposed to the original bill because of that move of the responsibility away from the cabinet to the board, but then this. But then, of course, who are we dealing with? What kind of person? This is Bernie Ostry. All of you people sitting around the cabinet are good people and I suspect most of you wouldn't in your wildest dreams think anybody would do it, so you're not even looking for it, and there it happens.

Then we get the spectacle we had here last fall, and what a spectacle. Who's on first? The Premier wasn't sure he knew. I think the minister was responsible. Conway and Harris were saying some terrible things, impugning the integrity of the honourable chairman-designate of Ontario Hydro when really my question was, who's running the shop? Is he going to be paid \$400,000?

Then, of course, we had the example, I think it was on October 23, of the member for Kitchener, the then Minister of Energy. I thought the statement—and I have it someplace in this pile of paper—was "special," to quote the church lady. Here it is. I know it's not a big deal, but to the

public out there, to the ratepayer in Renfrew, 400,000 bucks is a lot of money. I know there are others who would find it a mere trifle. I won't mention my several constituents who have been writing and complaining about these bills, but Glengarry is more perfectly rural than Renfrew and I tell you, in Glengarry they would not have been amused about someone who had, weeks before, been earning \$125,000 or \$130,000 making this smash and grab for \$400,000, particularly when we have a new day of openness and accountability and the government is in charge. The government didn't seem to know—the Premier himself didn't seem to know—what was going on though he had in fact executed the order in council of June 6, 1991, making Mr Eliesen chairman and chief executive officer.

We get the member for Kitchener making a statement, and I thought this was fetching, because he said on that day that Mr Eliesen had come forward, he had cleaned up the confusion, clarified the confusion, by offering to take a pay cut. He wouldn't be asking for \$400,000; he would only be taking \$260,000.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): Hear, hear.

Mr Conway: People said, "Hear, hear." I think I was pretty strident, but I think I might have gotten up and said a few things that were mildly conciliatory because I thought, "It makes you feel good."

I don't mean this as partisan; no, I don't. I know it sounds like it, but it's the character. We had them and the Tories had them. I'm just reading Roy Jenkins's wonderful biography *A Life at the Centre*. God, did Harold Wilson have them. It's just humanity. They come in different ways. They're just not all the same.

So we get this statement. I remember thinking, "I should just go and see whether or not anything else has happened on this account." This was Thursday, October 24. We beat our breasts in thanksgiving to Mr Marc Eliesen, who has offered a 30% pay cut, reducing his salary by \$140,000, from \$400,000 to \$260,000. In fact, there's even a little comment in this statement directed at me, hoping, says the member for Kitchener, that the member for Renfrew will stop what is basically his character assassination. I will admit I said some very serious things.

You can imagine what I felt like when I went to the library later that day. Isn't it interesting? On Thursday, October 23, 1991, less than 24 hours before this triumphal act of self-denial, the executive council had quietly executed a new order in council extending my dear friend the chairman's length of stay from three to five years. I thought, "I guess there'll be an announcement." There was no announcement. My point is simply this: Openness and accountability? I tell you, I think you've got a tiger by the tail.

I have a lot of sympathy for the members of the cabinet. This character, from all accounts, is a scheming, manipulative operator who is capable of getting this government and that Hydro corporation into no small amount of trouble. He has other qualities which are, I'm sure, very endearing, but sitting over here and watching the spectacle of that character putting this cabinet through

those calisthenics was sad. It really made me angry. It doesn't say a great deal about openness and accountability, admittedly only at that level.

It was really interesting, in a similar way, to be told by what I think I could characterize as reliable sources about how it is the demand-supply update of January 1992 came to pass. I think this is a much more serious issue. Again thinking about openness and accountability, what happened, I am told, is that this document—and I thought it was interesting, though I understand how these things happen, that after the public hearings on Bill 118 concluded, but not by many days—that's not true. Actually, it happened in early January.

The chairman of Hydro announced the DSPS update 1992. This is a very important document. I don't profess to understand it in all its ramifications. It is extremely complicated, highly technological. One would have to be a very long-serving and astute observer to begin to understand the assumptions and the implications and the applications of this adjustment.

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Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): The caucus understands it.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Hamilton Centre says the caucus understands it. Let me tell you this much. I am told—and I know this—that the original Hydro demand-supply plan of 1989 took four or five years to prepare. My friends opposite can quarrel about its contents, its direction—I can certainly accept how they would reject the emphasis on new supply; that's a perfectly fair observation—but it took four or five years of very substantial and intensive work to produce. Outside consultants were apparently brought in to analyse and assess the conservation and demand management targets that were contained in the 1989 demand management plan.

What happened when the new update came to the board? I want you to reflect on this. Apparently the board of directors was confronted at one meeting—with no prior paper, nothing—with a two-hour presentation, much of it in slides. On the basis of that two-hour presentation, with no prior paper and no outside professional consultants looking at the fundamental changes it addresses, the board of directors, under the new government, approved on a divided vote the demand-supply update of 1992.

My friends, I tell you, that is a dramatic development. That is a very sharp contradiction to some of the fundamentals of your policy: a two-hour presentation to a substantially new board, containing enormous changes in the energy policy of this province, and it passed on the spot with a division. I think it begs the question—some openness, some accountability; it's more the accountability than anything else.

I raise it simply because of what I said earlier. People wonder why private members of this Legislature might be interested in an amendment that calls for due diligence on behalf of the board of directors of this kind of corporation. I want to say that I think what happened, or apparently what happened, around the DSP update was a scandalous abdication of the responsibility of the members of that

board. It is a scandalous contradiction of the accountability the government rightly seeks to appropriate for itself. It is a scandalous policy in so far as if it is wrong it will open the province, its economy and its citizens to pressures and difficulties that are going to be very severe indeed. I simply say, the early returns make me very worried about who's running the store.

I know exactly what's happening. This is why, again, I come back to my friend the chairman. The minister is an acting minister with lots of experience, but he has a very complicated dossier at Financial Institutions. He is distracted. Of course there have been two predecessors who, for whatever reason, were not there all that long.

Normally the Premier's office would be running a very closely watching brief on this. I know exactly what this Premier's office is faced with in the spring and summer of 1992. It has major policy questions of a very immediate kind to decide, whether it's the Retail Business Holidays Act, whether it's the OLRA, whether it's the constitutional talks or whether it's a variety of other things the Premier is rightly involved with. So I can imagine that there cannot be in that person, bright and capable as he is, very much residual time and energy to look at this file.

So who's running the store? I think I know who's running the store. He has to be the happiest man in Upper Canada, because this is just the kind of atmosphere in which that kind of apparatchik thrives. These dupes are sent in here—good people—I'm sorry to even use the word, but that's the only word you could use for people who had to stand up day after day and sputter one inanity after another about what kind of salary, what kind of pension, who's on first and who's on second, because they did not know.

I simply make the point that to be told the demand-supply update was approved by the board at one meeting with no prior consultation, no paper, no nothing, is positively breathtaking. I hope and I pray you are right, because if you are wrong in any way like some previous people charged with the responsibility, we are in big and reasonably immediate trouble.

I say to myself when I look at the demand-supply update, what has changed? It's essentially the same people at Hydro who prepared the 1989 report. I know there's a new government and I understand that, but my friend the acting minister knows—I mean, I was Minister of Education for the better part of four years and that general legislative grant—

Hon Mr Charlton: Look at the document and you will see 1989. It is all there.

Mr Conway: We're going to return to that. The only thing that has changed between 1992 and 1989 is a new government and a new chairman. You might say, "Well, that's enough." When you look at the fundamental changes in this policy—let me use one.

Hon Mr Charlton: There aren't any.

Mr Conway: The acting minister says, "What are they?" Let me use one example.

Hon Mr Charlton: No, I said there aren't any.

Mr Conway: There aren't any. Let me just cite my favourite example. In the 1989 demand-supply plan, Hydro said it could manage on the conservation and demand management side about 5,000 megawatts. By the way, I am told that at that time Hydro had outside experts telling it those conservation targets were at the absolute outside of possibility. They were very liberal indeed. That was 1989. That was done with outside consultants apparently analysing the Hydro target. Two years later, by the magical wave of Marc Eliesen's wand, it's not 5,000 megawatts, it's 10,000 megawatts.

I'm from Renfrew and we just say for that kind of transfiguration, there must be some evidence. There must be some study to set aside what was indicated just two years before, that 5,000 megawatts was very rich and liberal and don't tie your star too completely to that, and now we're told, "Ye of little faith, it's not 5,000, it's 10,000 megawatts." That saving alone, that difference in the conservation target, is more than all the megawattage at Darlington, I believe.

Let me say I hope you're right. I hope and I pray you're right, but there are some early returns that perhaps suggest something else. I'm going to talk about those briefly. But before I do, I just want to say again, it's all well and good to talk about accountability, but I ask you, in the first year of your new Hydro policy, look at what happened around the handling of the chairman's salary and who was going to set that salary. Look at what happened in the case of that DSP update of just three months ago. What I heard about the DSP update made me think Adam Beck is truly alive and well.

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Just think about it. This chairman walked in and said: "Board members, here it is. Here's the diet. Consume it, pass it and be gone." That's what happened. We now have a new day and we have a dramatically altered policy. Boy, it makes me feel very comfortable about the amount of control and accountability. I repeat, it's the kind of decision made by directors that makes me want to see an amendment for due diligence, because I think those directors have an obligation to assess the range of choices, options and consequences flowing from those choices and those options. I am not at all convinced that the new board—good people, and I know some of them very well—had any opportunity to do that in a meaningful way.

At the end of the day, I say to my friend the member for Elgin, people in Sparta or Aylmer are not going to wonder who the board member was. They're going to want to know what their elected member did or did not do to provide reasonable protection against some wrongheadedness.

Again in terms of the policy, we have the directive power. People of course have beat their breasts and said: "It is a good thing. It is a good thing that we have the directive power. We can now of course accept an amendment that puts the directive power squarely within the purposes of Hydro so that, unlike those oppositionists who said Hydro could go out and do a variety of things not related to the mandate of Ontario Hydro, that can't now happen because we've accepted the amendment to constrain

the directive power to the purposes of Hydro as set out in the Power Corporation Act." But what does it now provide?

Apparently, this directive power provides this chairman and this government with the opportunity to do the sorts of things they've done in Elliot Lake and Kapuskasing. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that is a very expansive interpretation of the directive power. Ratepayers in Moose Creek and Maxville will be looking at their bills—a bill that is hard to miss these days because it went up about 12% last year and it's going to go up about 10% this year—and saying, "Why is it costing me so much money?" I have to tell them, "In part it's because the government has decided to take hundreds of millions of dollars out of the Hydro ratepayers and do good works in Elliot Lake."

I have no quarrel with government's responsibility in ameliorating the effects of the phase-down at Elliot Lake. The question is how one does it and who pays. To tax the electrical ratepayers for that regional economic development program I think is unfair and unreasonable. But more than anything else, it is unfair.

My parents, who live in a small town in eastern Ontario in a fully electrically heated house, have no natural gas. My mother doesn't get excited about too many things, but she waved the Hydro bills in my face the other day and said, to quote Queen Victoria, "We are not amused." There they sit in Barrys Bay, Ontario, with no natural gas, and like a lot of senior citizens, they've had their experience with wood and they've had their experience with oil and they switched 10 years ago because the government sort of encouraged them to switch to electricity. Now, in their 70s, they have no great desire to make another switch, so they will get to pay a disproportionate share of the Elliot Lake program compared to what I will living in Pembroke, where I have an electrical bill that is about one seventh my parents', largely because I have a choice they do not now nor ever will have, namely, natural gas.

I say again to my friends in the NDP: They have been passionate on the subject of equity, and what I don't understand about this policy is that, particularly in its application around rural Ontario, it is so fundamentally and transparently inequitable as to just leave me speechless, if you can imagine, and most people can't imagine it.

It's not just people like my parents who are observing this. I notice in the submission from Ivaco, a big employer in eastern Ontario, they raised some concerns about fuel switching. Reading from their brief in Ottawa:

"We are aware that the government has agreed to limit any policy directives that are issued to Ontario Hydro to the corporation's exercise of its duties under the act. This, however, does not provide us with any comfort since the government itself will make the decision as to whether the directive is within the corporation's mandate." Believe me, that is true; that is in the nature of how all governments work.

He goes on to say that, "We have already seen how this decision will be made," using the examples of Elliot Lake and Kapuskasing. And I didn't hear anybody on the travels argue that something ought not to have been done, but it's who paid. The submission from Ivaco goes on to estimate

that the Elliot Lake and Kapuskasing subvention represents more than a 5% increase in the rates, based on projected 1992 revenues.

The fact of the matter is, my friends, that when one appropriates hundreds of millions of dollars, as was done for Elliot Lake and Kapuskasing, and then tacks that on not to the general taxpayer but sticks it to the electrical consumer, you have a policy that I think is unfair and is seen to be unfair.

I want to say something else about expenditures. My friend the member for Sarnia made the point earlier this evening. I see where the deputy minister in his comments, and I'll make some reference to those momentarily—one of the things I hear from my friends opposite is, "You know, they will sing the Hallelujah Chorus because the era of megaprojects is over." Well, it may be, but I just want to remind everybody that according to the plan, Hydro, under your direction, is going to spend \$6 billion in the next seven or eight years on demand management and energy conservation. And I'll tell you, they are charting very uncharted waters in many respects.

I was in Espanola not too long ago. My friends in Espanola think they have died and gone to heaven. Why?

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): Because you were there.

Mr Conway: Listen, you will get to explain this, I tell you. I get to explain SkyDome, and the ghost of Willy Davis gets to explain Darlington and the ghost of Adam Beck gets to explain a lot of things, but you are going to get to explain this.

You know, you may be right. There may be not a trifle of worry. But I went to Espanola not too long ago. Some of my friends could hardly contain themselves, because Hydro, that gargantuan public corporation, had come to town. They have something called a Home Saver program, and they spent millions of dollars going around, I think to the entire town, offering to do an audit and pay for a lot of retrofitting houses and I think businesses.

I remember, Mr Speaker, it was one of your colleagues, Jim Taylor, the former member of Parliament, of the Legislature, for Prince Edward-Lennox. He was Minister of Energy. He said something here one day I thought was interesting and I thought a little bit controversial. At the time he said, "You know, I'm the Minister of Energy, and you know what bothers me about Hydro?" This is the minister talking, about 13 years ago. He said, "The problem with Ontario Hydro is that it's so big and it's so inherently bureaucratic that when you phone Hydro and ask them to replace your lightbulb, their response is to build you a new house."

So what have we got in Espanola? We've got this big, awkward, gargantuan public corporation up there doing a Home Saver program, I think it's called, and I'll tell you, you'd be a fool, an absolute idiot, not to take everything they offer, because they're paying at least 50% of it, and you can believe it is deluxe. Somebody is already standing up and saying: "Now, Conway, what you need to understand is what we're doing. We're going to places like Espanola, a town of 5,000"—you know, if Hydro gives

every other community of 1,000 or more the same deal Espanola got, the corporation, the consolidated revenue fund and the province will be absolutely broke.

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We all saw the spectacle of the lightbulbs. I think my friend the member for Lanark-Renfrew was making the point. Hydro people, good people, are embarrassed about this foolhardy business of sending out these lightbulbs. I was talking to a good friend of mine in a Hydro office the other day and he said to me: "What a nightmare. We sent the damned things out by mail and many broke. People who were mad as hell about their bills were phoning and saying, 'I've got a bill that's 15% more than it was this time last year and you've sent me these'"—I won't tell you what they said in Renfrew—"you've sent me these two broken lightbulbs and this is supposed to make me feel good?"

My friends who know more than I do say \$7 million to save \$4 million. We had all kinds of good people come before the committee and say, "If you want to do this, there's a way, but this is not it." I'm no technical adviser, but boy, there were some pretty impressive people who said it: \$7 million to apparently save \$4 million.

I heard somebody on Gzowski a few months ago who was very supportive of a lot of the initiatives of the government, and he couldn't contain himself about that admittedly not big program. You see, that's the point. Espanola and the lightbulb program are not big items. They're \$7 million in one case and I don't know what Espanola's going to cost but, boy, I bet you we never find out. But the new plan is to spend \$6 billion on demand management. I'm sure I sound like a carping oppositionist.

Mr Duignan: You got that right; it's the only thing tonight you've got right.

Mr Conway: Well, I was not the one who called for night sittings.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): You wanted this opportunity.

Mr Conway: I wanted an opportunity to unburden myself of this, because I've got to go home to people who in the main are just going to get stiffed with these bills.

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): It's cheaper than OHIP.

[Laughter]

Mr Conway: Laugh; I don't mind. Laugh all you want. It's not that many years ago that I heard people making passionate speeches about what would happen, if an NDP government took office, with auto insurance. I remember the outrages around the want of a pause day. My friend the member for York South—I'll tell you, what a diet of crow, and the poor man is driven back into reminiscences of Oliver Mowat.

Hon Ms Churley: You're not talking about the bill.

Mr Conway: I'm responding to honourable members. I'm flattered to have the government's leading environmentalist here to keep me on track, but I simply make the point that Espanola and the lightbulbs are two early returns on energy conservation.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): They're very remotely connected.

Mr Conway: They're remotely connected? They're central to your policy. I'm not the one who said, "I can, with demand management, increase the avoided supply from 5,000 to 10,000 megawatts." So we look at how you're going to do this. You're going to do it with very creative initiatives around energy conservation. I tell you, early returns are not very encouraging.

I hope some of you—we've got the former mayor of Oshawa, and other people have had good municipal experience. I was really struck by the parliamentary assistant, who seems to have a far better grasp of a number of the technical issues than I ever had. The lightbulbs: you don't want to have to explain too many of those. It's pretty comical, if it weren't so painful. As I say, in the constituency break I kept meeting people who got, at one and the same time, a mittful of broken Hydro lightbulbs and a very richly increased Hydro bill. They certainly made a connection and, I want to tell you, it was not the connection you would have wanted.

I want to also make a few comments around what I heard in my recent travels in the constituency in terms of talking to my local commission. I had an opportunity—when I wasn't reading the Windsor Star about the very interesting activities at the Windsor Utilities Commission, a subject to which I will return shortly—to go in and talk to my local commission in Pembroke. They took me into a warehouse, and they've got a warehouse full of returned electric hot water heaters. I call it a hot water tank; the place is full of them.

Two things are happening. I think the honourable members opposite better understand this, because I think they're going to be asked soon to give some explanations. The best friend your DSP has is the recession. It's helping you in a way that it helped Billy Davis in the early 1980s. We had Arthur Porter here in the late 1970s saying, "Hey, there's trouble," royal commission reports saying, "Brownouts are possible in places like Ottawa-Carleton if we don't deal with either the supply or transmission issue." That was projected in the late 1970s. From 1981 to 1984 we had a fairly good recessionary downturn and that provided some additional time in which to move, to do some things, particularly on the transmission side.

The recession is kicking the stuffing out of the Ontario economy. It's kicking the stuffing out of a lot of things. I was talking to a friend of mine the other day, well placed within the Workers' Compensation Board. I wouldn't even want to repeat what the recession is doing to that public corporation. But it's interesting that in so many of these utilities industrial demand is collapsing, commercial demand is retreating substantially and of course the marketplace is driving residential users away from electricity over to natural gas as the alternative of choice.

So my friends in the Pembroke Hydro-Electric Commission said to me the other day, "What do you suggest we do, because our dilemma is this," and it's going to be a dilemma faced by the corporation. I thought it interesting the other day, and I will talk about the corporation's similar difficulty, that these utilities are in the main going

the same problem. Demand is down and down significantly, and without even the incentives you're going to offer under fuel switching people are moving in droves, apparently, where they have a choice, particularly to natural gas. Demand is dropping, the bulk power rates from Hydro are up 10% to 12%. So what do you suppose that means? It means something very simple and something very painful. Many fewer ratepayers are going to be paying substantially higher costs and that's going to continue for some time to come.

I repeat, whether you're the London utility or the Pembroke utility or the Espanola utility, if you are successful and the recession and other things are moving customers away from Hydro in droves, I would say to my friends in the NDP, what are you going to do in the short and intermediate term when you are faced with this very painful situation of sharply reduced demand, substantially fewer ratepayers and substantially increased bulk power costs? The per-unit price of what you have to offer is going to go up and go up dramatically. If I were a New Democrat, I would be worried in the short term not just about the price consumers are going to have to pay—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: I'm just telling you what people running utilities are telling me, and it makes perfectly good sense. If there is a substantial reduction in the demand and a substantial reduction in the number of ratepayers, you don't have to be Einstein to figure out what that's going to do to a price structure.

The answer that's going to be provided is that over time we're going to have a lot of avoided cost and it's going to all even out. Well, maybe so, but people in places like Grimsby, Pembroke and Niagara-on-the-Lake are faced with a problem now and for the next number of years. I tell you, it is going to cause a very real and palpable pain.

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Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): What does Mr Klopp think of the farmers?

Mr Conway: I was talking to a dairy farmer the other day and he said: "In Stafford township, I'm a big, highly mechanized dairy producer. My hydro bill is \$1,000 a month. Now you tell me, Mr Conway, that the government in your Legislature is going to increase those bulk rates by 25%, 30%, 40% over the course of the next few years. My cows do not produce in a way that responds to that kind of logic. I don't know where I'm going to get, out of an increasingly competitive agricultural commodity market, prices that are going to allow me to eat that kind of increase."

My friend from the Beaches looks puzzled. My point is a very simple one. In talking to local utilities, they're telling me something that I think makes a lot of sense. In the here and now, industrial and commercial demand is down substantially, in the main caused by the recession. A lot of residential consumers like myself, and I dare say a lot of other people here, are making or have already made a switch away from electricity to natural gas. So the load is dropping substantially. We've got fewer, and in some cases substantially fewer, customers to pay for the fixed costs of

the utility and the increased bulk power rate that Ontario Hydro is charging us. So fewer people are going to pay substantially higher prices for some considerable number of years, and that is causing a lot of worry.

If you're running a utility, your first response is: "We've got to shake down the cost. We've got to reduce the number of people." That is unavoidably going to happen. For example, when Hydro says, "We're not going to be into the nuclear business; we're not going to be into megaprojects," I'm telling you that ought to be of interest to CUPE Local 1000, because Hydro is being privatized to some extent. I'm not so sure that's a bad thing, but if I were a New Democrat, I would be interested in that. By virtue of this policy you are going to squeeze local utilities in the short term in such a way that they are going to have to lay off hundreds of people, because they simply have got to bring down their costs to relate to their new load. Otherwise they're going to face a ratepayer rebellion. That is not just the local utilities' problem, but it appears as well to be the corporation's problem.

I know Canadian Press is never wrong, but I picked up the Ottawa Citizen of May 30, 1992, and I read a headline that said "Ontario Hydro Profits to Fall by \$214 Million." Let me just read briefly from that CP report: "Ontario Hydro says its profit this year and next will fall by \$214 million or 25% below a forecast it made only two months ago." Let me repeat: Hydro is now telling the Ontario Energy Board that its profit forecast of two months ago is off by 25%. I know how it can be, and they go on to explain how it is:

"The announcement indicates, says Hydro, a marked deterioration in the financial results at the giant corporation. The projections were made this week in filings before the energy board. The utility said its profit outlook is worsening because of a continued slump in electricity demand and the expectation of higher borrowing costs next year."

I don't want you to remember too much from that, but I just want you to remember two things: First, Hydro's profit forecasts of two months ago, it now says, were off by 25%. They're saying they are facing some very tough times because, of course, the recession is kicking the stuffing out of demand. Of course, they also tell us they are going to be able to offer a bulk power rate increase for 1993, subject to Ontario Energy Board approval, of 8.6%. How could they do that? Well, I say to my friend the member for Northumberland, they're going to do that because they're going to reach into the reserve fund to the tune of \$250 million to keep the 8.6% rate increase from being an 11.6% increase.

That's a bit like Floyd Laughren's recent budget. He said, "You know, I can keep the deficit down this year to \$10 billion because I have decided to delay payments that are due this year to some of our pension funds in the amount of half a billion bucks."

I never took accounting, but that is not very comforting. I want to just say to my friends opposite that in the very early days of their new policy we are seeing some of the contradictions that potentially could rip this policy to shreds, and do so over the heads of senior citizens and other ratepayers, to say nothing of those industries in

constituencies like Lincoln and Niagara Falls that are crying out at public meetings.

My friend the member for Lincoln will have read the Standard, the Niagara Falls Review and the Spectator of the other day, but at the Niagara regional council there was a delegation of Niagara business people saying: "Help. We are sinking under the weight of these appalling Hydro rate increases."

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): Should have been elected 10 years ago.

Mr Conway: My friend says they should have been elected 10 years ago. Listen, I'm now asking you to give an account of your own policy and your own policy appears to be coming unstuck in some very important respects within the first six months. I'm not the one who went to the OEB and said, "Hey, our forecasts of two months ago were off by 25%." I'm not the one out delivering these lightbulbs and spending the millions. I'm not the one up in Espanola. And Hydro is saying, "We are in a worsened financial situation because the recession is robbing us of demand."

Of course, in the short term what we're going to do is do everything we can, including taking hundreds of millions of dollars out of the rate base, to cause even more demand shift. If that happens in the next little while, I can tell you that next year Hydro will be at the OEB saying what Energy Probe is saying, "I don't believe yet that our financial situation is desperate."

I want to tell my friends opposite that their friend Marc Eliesen is able to trot out an 8.6% bulk power rate increase this year, subject to OEB approval, only by dipping into the reserve fund in the amount of \$250 million. Those of you who've served on councils locally know that you can do that, often in election years, but you can't burn the furniture to heat the parlour for very long.

Mr Klopp: I am glad you're burnt out.

Mr Conway: Oh, no. I just also want to digress briefly—

Mr Klopp: "Digress" is the word.

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Mr Conway: I know it's vexatious, but you know, it could get worse. It could get a lot worse. I am, in all my energy, as nothing compared to going to CUPE 1000 when its members figure out what some of the elements of this Trojan horse are. I am as nothing compared to my friend the member for Elgin, who has to go home and explain to the farmers down there in west Elgin that, "Yes, it's going to be 12% next year and it's going to be 13%," in an age when inflation is running at about 2%.

I want to digress for a couple of things. Where do I start? I should also start by making comment as well on the Ontario Energy Board hearings currently under way on the 1993 rate increase, where Hydro has admitted that over the next four years it is going to spend \$2 billion—\$2 billion of that \$6 billion on energy conservation is going to be spent in the next four years.

I just say to my friend the member for Sarnia, you don't need to tell me now, but you people better, since

you're interested in accountability and openness—\$2 billion is a lot of potatoes.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Not to them.

Mr Conway: I think it is to them. These are not unreasonable people.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): They spill more than that.

Mr Conway: I don't think that's fair, but \$2 billion are going to be spent in the next four years. I would like to see some kind of analysis of how and where that is going to be spent. I say it because last year—and my friend the member for Ottawa South went through this—the energy board said it has virtually no confidence in the whole program as it's been offered. They are terrified at the energy board that for largely political reasons the government-driven corporation is going to go out and sponsor a whole series of lightbulb giveaways and Espanola home saver programs.

One of the amendments we offered was that there be some kind of costing of individual initiatives. It's not me; it's the energy board from last year saying, "This is very thin ice on which you're skating and we had better know more than we know now, if there's any hope of getting value for money, of making sure that benefits outweigh the costs."

I found interesting—I don't know the file as well as the member for Lanark-Renfrew and the member for Ottawa South—that submission by the London Public Utilities Commission where they argue that some kind of load management on their hot water account will be more effective than any kind of fuel substitution. I don't know whether that's true, but I have to believe those good people know something of which they speak.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: Pardon me? I would say to my friend the member for Sarnia, before you go out, and you're out on the streets now preparing apparently to spend \$2 billion on energy conservation, demand management, I think you owe it to this Legislature to explain the details of that policy because there will be a tremendous temptation to have this as a political show. That's what we got in the first instance. It's not all bad, I suppose, but I'm going to tell you, those first two departures are peanuts compared to what you're planning to spend.

I would like to know what I suspect Hydro cannot now tell me, just what kind of multibillion-dollar plan it has got and whether or not after spending \$1.9 billion over the next four years—by the way, according to the energy board submission of the other day, that \$1.9 billion is going to be a net cost even after the electrical savings of those years are taken account of. That's a \$2-billion cost net above any electrical savings within that same time period.

I can understand why you don't want megaprojects. I am worried that you are going to have, with all the best of intentions, a coopered together, trumped up bag of political offerings that are going to look good for a day or two, but are going to evaporate against the horizon of real opportunity. Three or four years from now we're going to be sitting here wondering, "What do we do now?"

I just say to my friends to look at what the energy board said last year. I can't imagine what they're going to say this year on the basis of what they've already heard in just the first two weeks.

I repeat board findings from last year. The board is very concerned about the cost-effectiveness of Hydro's energy management expenditures. I repeat, the Ontario Energy Board is very concerned with the effectiveness of Hydro's energy management expenditures. Since the last energy board report Ontario Hydro has increased substantially its energy management expenditures, partly in response to a government directive to redirect nuclear-free engineering expenditures. The energy board notes Hydro's testimony that the additional expenditures are not planned to result in additional long-term savings. Let me repeat: The energy board notes Ontario Hydro's own testimony that the additional expenditures are not planned to result in additional long-term savings. Hydro has expressed some hope that it may do so, but the energy board questions the usefulness of spending the money based on hope of future savings.

The report goes on—I'm sorry, Frances, but what do I do? Let me just say that if you are as interested as you say you are in accountability, I'm sorry, this is what it's all about. Once every so often this Legislature is going to have to bite its tender little teeth into this stuff and accept the responsibility that comes with being big person on the block. The easy part of this is to say, "I'm in charge here," and then run like hell when somebody says, "Who is paying what to the chairman of Hydro?" "Oh, I don't know." "Well, what's going on about demand?" "Oh, I don't know; that's not my job."

You're the ones preaching accountability. You know what? I think you're right. So I'm here to talk about it. I'm sorry I won't be back for a while, but this debate is going to be re-engaged at some point, I suspect in not too many months, and not because of anything I do.

But let's go back to the energy board. I'm talking now about the provincial regulator of Ontario Hydro and last year's assessment of the centrepiece of the new NDP order which is, "We don't need to build any more Hydro nuclear plants and we don't have to build a lot of new supply, because we can save, we can conserve, we can manipulate demand in such a way as to obviate the need for thousands of those megawatts." Of Marc Eliesen's ability to manipulate I have no doubt. Of Marc Eliesen's ability to manipulate these highly complex forces I have great doubt indeed.

But I want to go back to the energy board of last year. The energy board has other concerns with the process by which additional energy conservation expenditures were allocated. The amount chosen was arbitrary. The choice of options between information and incentive programs may have been distorted since only the latter were eligible for capitalization and only capitalization expenditures were to be added.

Hydro testified that the result of the additional expenditures has been to bring forward programs from 1993 and 1994. This is of concern to the board in that programs may have been rushed into place. I'm absolutely certain the board is right. In short, the energy board said last year, 1991, in its late summer report, "We, the Ontario Energy

Board, find that the additional expenditures will not likely result in cost-effective energy management savings but only in additional costs and lost revenue in the short term."

In the board's view this is not short-term pain for long-term gain; rather, this is short-term pain for little or no gain. The fact that Hydro is struggling to spend the funds is of little comfort to the board. In the board's view, Hydro should review its energy management programs to ensure that energy management expenditures are being undertaken in the most cost-effective manner. The board notes that it concluded in last year's report that Hydro's energy management savings objectives could be met with a budget 25% less than Hydro was planning to spend at the time.

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I want to repeat the one salient fact in that. This concerns itself with the centrepiece of this policy, and the energy board, the watchdog, said last year about this policy that the board finds that additional expenditures will not likely result in cost-effective energy management savings, but only in additional costs and lost revenue in the short term. The energy board has the view that this is not short-term pain for long-term gain; rather, it is short-term pain for little or no gain at all. That's not Conway speaking—that's the energy board. I only raise it because you're putting a lot of eggs in that basket. You're putting \$6 billion worth of eggs in that basket, and you're going to spend \$1.9 billion of that \$6 billion in the next three and a half years.

You say you are for openness and accountability. I ask only this: What programs are going to attract the \$1.9 billion over the next three and a half years? What kind of analysis has been done? What have you discarded? What are you promoting? What is the hope, for example, of the London PUC in getting some consideration? Perhaps it's very high. I talked to a friend of mine last night who's associated with Brock University. He said the university there in the member's riding is doing some very interesting and creative things about conservation and demand management. I know that a lot can be done. I worry, when government gets involved to the extent that the government is involved and when the instrument of intervention is the elephantine corporation that is Hydro, about how we are going to avoid what Jim Taylor said was the lasting problem: I need a new light fixture and they respond by building me a new house. When I was in Espanola I had no very great comfort that much had changed in the intervening decade.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): And they attacked Jim Taylor in the corridor.

Mr Conway: Well, we all attacked Jim Taylor for that.

The night wears on and so does the speech. It won't go on for ever, I can assure you. I'm trying to be a bit light, but this is serious stuff.

Again, another thing I found about being a cabinet minister as opposed to being a private member in the opposition is, by gosh—

Mr Turnbull: It pays more.

Mr Conway: No, it doesn't, actually. It doesn't pay more. That's what everybody thinks, and I'm quite happy

to have people think that. But it's that "Hon" that sits before your name, because that means you're responsible. They will expect—particularly if you're around, and you may not be. You see, the good thing about this from the fly-by-night artist's point of view is that it takes a while for these 1,000 flowers to bloom. If you're lucky and you've made a mistake, you're gone. Billy Davis is gone. He doesn't have to give an accounting of his stewardship, particularly in its failed aspects. But if you were around in four years or six years, you might very well be charged with the same responsibility.

The energy board has proven to be accurate—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: The hour's late, Frances, and I don't think that's a fair observation on your part so late in the evening. You have many fans over here, and I just don't think you should be so despondent about the future. The joy of politics is that you never know.

Mrs Sullivan: Never give up, Frances.

Mr Conway: And of course, since one never knows, one is always—

Mr Sutherland: You didn't hear right, Sean. She wasn't despondent about the future.

Mr Conway: Well, all right. I'm sorry if I heard incorrectly.

I want to just say a couple of other things, particularly for the benefit of the chairs of treasury and Management Board. Somebody got up here the other day, I guess it was in the throne speech or the budget—I can't remember which—and said, "We've got to strike new collective bargaining processes." I think it's a good line.

I've sworn off education discussions for a long time. I read the Ottawa papers. Not since Olga Korbut have I seen such dexterity on the balance beam. That which is supple, that which is supine, that which is eternally flexible is always to be admired. What better evidence do I have than my friend opposite from York South this week. To see Bob Rae this week is to give me some heart, the proud son of Bill Temple and J.S. Woodsworth into casino gambling and open Sundays. Hey, listen, I'm just one of those temporizing, pragmatic Grits. I have so many sins of a pragmatic kind that you wouldn't even want to associate with me. But to see this latter-day saint come down from the mount with the new tablets is to justify my experience in this Parliament.

I read with some interest, I think in the budget or the throne speech, the reference to new collective arrangements. The citation that was offered was the Hydro agreement, 1%. I know something about those Hydro negotiations and they're not always easy; tough job. My friends who left high school at grade 12 and went to work for Ontario Hydro, when one looks at working conditions, pay and pensions, I tell you, they made a better choice than some fool who spent six years in university and went to the Legislature. I admire their wisdom.

At any rate, I was thinking about this not too long ago, because I remember in the Ottawa debate I thought, "These teachers are causing some general anxiety, not because they're not good people, and why shouldn't they ask

for 10% or 8% or 4% or whatever?" But I thought: "The federal public servants have accepted, unhappily or otherwise, 0% this year. The Hydro people I'm told have accepted 1%. That's a pretty low threshold."

I said this actually to some of my local utilities not too long ago and they said, "Oh, Conway, you bought that line?" I said: "What do you mean? You don't mean that Bob Rae misled me?" I thought 1% was 1%. Particularly if you're going to hold out the Bob Rae-Marc Eliesen collective bargaining success at Hydro for 1% and put it in the throne speech or the budget—I think it was in the budget—you've got to know that that is unassailable. It is what it is. I was disappointed.

Some place in this mass of paper I have a little piece of paper that a local utility person gave to me and said, "Well, Conway, if you believe that, you are the mayor of Sucker Bridge." I said, "What's wrong with it?" It is, he tells me, much more than meets the eye.

I heard the leader of the third party in his throne speech response. He did go on. He had what I didn't have: He had Hydroscope. I get it, but I didn't read it. I don't read it all the time. He had the CUPE version of the 1%. I'm not going to bore honourable members with what CUPE said in Hydroscope as to what the deal was, but according to Mr Harris's reading of Hydroscope in the throne debate of April 9, 1992, oh, Mr Speaker, there is much more than 1% and there's much more than meets the eye. Disingenuous, you say? Dissembling, you say? I don't know that parliamentary language would allow it, but there is much more than meets the eye.

I just say to my friends in the House tonight, if you believe the Hydro settlement is 1%, you are wrong, because there is a whole series of reclassifications. Hundreds if not thousands of good people, largely in the trades, many of them my friends and some of them my constituents, are going to do very well, apparently.

2150

Let me just read from the background information covering the new Hydro agreement: "As an outcome of the recent negotiations between Ontario Hydro and CUPE 1000, a family of regional maintainer classifications has been created." I repeat, "a family," a new family of quite a few brothers and sisters has been created called the regional maintainer classification family. As a result, the power line maintainer classification will be expanded to include an additional two years of training and a wage increase of 8%.

My friends will say: "Oh yes, but you know, this is progress through the ranks. These are training allowances." Well, I'm going to tell you, when you trot out in a budget that you've held the line at 1% and by sleight of hand you then start into a whole series of reclassifications to effectively give all those wonderful men and women at Hydro well above 1% for the next two or three years, you may have done the right thing and you have perhaps done a good thing, but you have done something much more than you admitted to in your budget and you have created additional cost pressures on the corporation at the very time when its rate base is shrinking; and if you have your way it will shrink much more significantly.

Equally, you have replaced very real pressures on the Sarnia, Hamilton, Woodstock, Etobicoke and Pembroke utilities and all the others, because of course they are not going to be insulated from that kind of ratcheting-up of your cost structure. So I just simply make the point that, like so many other things in this policy, there is more than meets the eye and that sometimes there is less than meets the eye, as we will find out fairly soon.

I also want to tell you about my own experience on fuel-switching. I have an example in my own county in the town of Deep River. I have an example of, I think, some of the first fuel-switching we're going to see in the province. This is an irony, actually, because Deep River is the home of the atomic research community. The substantial bulk of the population of 5,000 in the town of Deep River works at the Chalk River nuclear laboratories. I can tell you they are not very amused by the energy policy of this government, because more than any other place in this province the energy policy of this government threatens the viability and the future of that town.

But you have been generous. You selected the town of Deep River as one of the first places where you're going to apply some of the Hydro revenues for fuel-switching. Generous people, you're going to give them the opportunity to switch to natural gas before you throw perhaps hundreds of those people out of work.

I was very interested, because there are a lot of people around my constituency, including the local member, trying to figure out, "I wonder how they're going to do this?" The paper, the North Renfrew Times, a very fine paper, reported as recently as August 1991 that the way you were going to do this under the new policy—you needed Bill 118 to be passed—was that you were going to respond to what the Ontario Energy Board said.

Essentially, the energy board said, interestingly, as it applies to gas regulations, the regulation of gas utilities—I know my friend Pat from the Hansard table would want me to remind everyone that under OEB mandated policy gas companies cannot ask current ratepayers to pay for a capital expansion of the gasworks out of their rates.

That was the problem in Deep River. Deep River is right along the line of the TransCanada pipeline, which is being doubled at the present moment. For obvious reasons there was an interest in that community in tapping into that gas pipeline. A couple of years ago, the Ontario Energy Board said it would only allow that to occur if moneys were found to bridge the gap under the formula that I just mentioned, namely, that the expansion by Consumers' Gas into the town of Deep River could only occur if there was no requirement by the existing Consumers' Gas system to pay for the capital expansion. When the analysis was done, there was a gap of several hundreds of thousands of dollars. The government of Ontario had gotten out of the direct incentive program, which I think was operated some time ago. So there was a very real problem.

I thought it interesting, and I still do, that the gas utilities cannot by regulation do what Bill 118 is going to allow and the government is going to force Hydro to do because, of course, the energy board has said that would be an unfair burden on the existing rate base of the gas utilities.

Can you imagine a more harebrained paradox? If Bill 118 concerned the gas utilities instead of the provincial electrical utility, you could not by regulation, by virtue of decisions made by the provincial regulator, do what you are about to do to Hydro in the area of fuel substitution. I think that's a very interesting irony, which I wanted to just observe.

My friend the acting minister smiles. I hope he smiles because he sees the contradiction in that. The interesting thing about that is that the private entrepreneurs and investors at the gas utility are being protected in a way the citizens and the electrical ratepayers are not being protected. That too is the last thing I would have expected from an NDP government. I repeat, in this Deep River substance switching—and it's one of the first under the bill, as I understand it—we can do it now with the passage of Bill 118 because we're going from gas to electric and the electrical ratepayers are going to pay the difference to protect the stockholders in Consumers' Gas. But there is no reciprocity. It doesn't work the other way for you and me as ratepayers to Ontario Hydro. But I move on.

We all expected the basis for the policy in Deep River was going to be what the paper suggested. The North Renfrew Times, in its report of August 21, 1991, under the headline "Natural Gas A Go," says, "Consumers' agreement reached with Hydro will see the utility cover some of the capital cost." The article goes on in a way that certainly I thought was very consistent with the energy board ruling and the policy of bridging that gap and saving the stockholders in Consumers' Gas harmless from any unjustified or unprofitable capital expansion cost. That's what I thought.

The other day, I get a letter from a constituent of mine who has a letter from the chairman of Ontario Hydro.

Mr Stockwell: What did it say, Sean?

Mr Conway: My friend, the upfront, straight-shooting Marc Eliesen—

Interjection: He signed it?

2200

Mr Conway: The letter, signed by his own hand, makes no reference at all to the OEB ruling and the bridging policy. No, the letter says the following, and I quote the letter, dated April 14, 1992. I want you to listen to this. "Thank you," he says to my constituent, who had written him asking, how is this going to happen and how are you going to pay and what's the basis for all this? Mr Eliesen writes:

"Fuel substitution is an option for reducing consumer demand for electricity that Ontario Hydro has been assessing for some time now. This option is a potential component"—a potential component—"of our overall strategy for ensuring that there will be a reliable and economical supply of electricity for our consumers in the future."

Now listen to this. I love this kind of desert, because I can just see the scheming, conniving chairman, knowing the kind of corner into which he has been backed. How is he going to finesse this in light of the bill not being passed and a variety of other things? Well, in a move that would be expected of Harry Houdini, he writes:

"Our involvement, namely, Ontario Hydro's involvement with Consumers' Gas, is that we have tentatively agreed to pay them \$180,000 for research information"—this is all a research project—"that would benefit Ontario Hydro in the future if we are given a mandate by the provincial government to encourage fuel substitution. We will be getting reports from Consumers' Gas on"—and this is the stuff of a \$200,000 research project in my constituency: town, Deep River, population 5,000.

"Our research project is going to be the number of water and space heating systems converted in Deep River, the resulting electrical demand reduction, technical and safety problems encountered in conversions and general customer interest in and response to natural gas."

What do I say to that? There is a somewhat indelicate quote I believe derives from Irving Layton. Irving Layton once said in response to something equally—

Mr Stockwell: Inane.

Mr Conway: —inane and equally disingenuous that—and I quote the sainted Irving Layton—it was so much nauseous crapperoo. I tell you, there is no better phrase for this. I mean, it is nauseous crapperoo. I know why Hydro is doing what it's doing—

Mr O'Connor: Mr Speaker, listen to that language.

Mr Conway: I accept the advice of my friend the member for Durham-York, but that is an absolutely transparent insult to the intelligence of anybody who knows anything about this bill, this policy, the past rulings of the energy board on these kinds of switches or the expansion of the gas system. There is a good answer. Why doesn't my friend the self-effacing, always accommodating chairman have the guts to tell the truth? He seems to have a problem.

Again, I know you will think I have a prejudice here, and I'm afraid I do, because my every encounter with this character leaves me with a very hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach. I mean, can you imagine: 200,000 bucks to find out what a good summer student from any of the engineering schools could do in that town for probably 15,000 bucks, tops.

You see, openness and accountability. My constituent sent it to me because he was flabbergasted. He is a very knowledgeable, experienced individual, who knows infinitely more about this whole business than I will ever know. He got this and he was stupefied. And you know what? He ought to have been.

I just point out that this is, as far as I know, one of the first in the new day of fuel switching. Let me repeat, I am pleased that Deep River is going to have access to natural gas. I understand the problem they had that the OEB made claim over the course of the last couple of years, but I ask only this of my friend the acting minister, from whom I expect a much more positive consideration than I will get from the chairman of Ontario Hydro: If you want the policy to work, I think it would be wise to make every effort to ensure that this kind of nauseous crapperoo ceases.

Now, just a couple of final observations. I was met the other night by representatives of the Independent Power

Producers' Society of Ontario and did they have a story. They had a really interesting story. We all were told. You don't have to believe me. You just have to read the new gospel, you just have to read the new demand-supply update. It says, in January 1992, there is going to be a substantial expansion of the non-utility generation, NUG. Aren't we going to get a lot of additional generating capacity out of NUG?

The non-utility generation is essentially private power in the main. I think that's one of the interesting elements of the Trojan horse. If I were at CUPE Local 1000 and I was listening to this—"no more megaprojects" and "I'm going to be really interested in lots more non-utility generation"—I would say to my friends in the NDP, "Those are my jobs you're talking about."

Let there be no mistake about it: In the short and intermediate terms, the new generation is coming outside the traditional mandate of Hydro. I don't think that is necessarily a bad thing, but that is going to cost jobs at Hydro. If it doesn't, it should, simply by virtue of the fact that you're going to be reducing your operation necessarily.

I was very interested to read the new plan called for thousands of megawatts of non-utility generation. Last fall the government began the crank-up and then, within weeks, that which was turned on was turned off. The independent power producers were in the other night and they were apoplectic. They said: "We want you to know that the commitments of the government and Hydro around non-utility generation are bunk. They are demonstrably not true, and if they tell you they are true, they are not telling the truth. If we don't get some latitude, we are going to deteriorate and diminish substantially as an option." That's not Conway talking; that is the association of independent power producers.

Now, I don't want to embarrass anyone opposite. My friend the parliamentary assistant is closer to this than I am, but if you really want a show on the non-utility generation, you want to go to Windsor. The debate in Windsor over the last six months, for someone who would be quite rightly looking at this policy and saying, "I think it's a better way, it's a new direction, and clearly it's the stuff of opportunity, and we have a very considerable new possibility here"—Windsor, of course, had the Nordic-TransAlta proposition.

The minister and the parliamentary assistant know I've been to Windsor. I don't raise the subject any more; it's too tender. I don't know where the litigation is—it may not have even started—but I bet you my pal Marc is scrambling, I bet you my pal Marc is twisting and turning as only he could twist and only he could turn.

2210

I'm going to read one of the several reports, an editorial out of the Windsor Star of March 6, 1992. Let me just read some of it. I repeat, as late as last week, the independent power producers, the engine that's going to give you a lot of your non-utility generation, were in to tell me and some of my colleagues that the whole commitment by the government and particularly by Hydro to non-utility generation is a sham. The Windsor Star editorial of two months ago said the following:

"If you're a ratepayer who thinks something just doesn't add up at Hydro, you're not alone. Consider

this: Just a few weeks ago, Ontario Hydro embarked on a 25-year conservation program that's become so successful it has now a surplus of energy. Apparently, having just discovered this unexpected windfall, the crown corporation found itself scrambling two months ago to pull the plug on some of the 13 non-utility generating projects it had been so keenly promoting. The reason? Promoting energy at a lower cost through the private sector would, Hydro decided, cost ratepayers more money."

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services): Right on, Sean. Right on.

Mr Conway: Your policy, not mine. I would have thought that least among the interveners this week would be my friend the minister of a common pause day, a very estimable fellow, but I think a week that he would want to now conclude in quiet introspection. I tell you, looking at the government's energy policy in Windsor city over the last six months is not a place to go for quiet reflection, because the policy looks like a joke. It's not me talking, it's the Windsor Star.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: Now we've got the intervention from Huron. Don't do this to me. I'm trying to wind up.

Hon Mr Pilkey: You are wound up.

Mr Conway: You see, I want the ability to say, another day, that we once had a discussion. So my friends, who want political involvement and public input, are getting it from one member of the Legislature who has happened over the years to have taken something of a passing interest in Hydro. I have made my miscalculations and I have made my mistakes; I will make no bones about that.

Back to the Windsor Star, though. "Apparently, having just discovered this unexpected windfall" of private power potential in that city, Ontario Hydro found itself scrambling, just two months after cranking all of this up, to shut it all down, because they found out in places like Windsor that people like Nordic-TransAlta could deliver the power at substantially lower costs. They say, of course, the problem now is a surplus. Your policy is working, and the reason that one part of the policy has to be shut down is that another part of the policy is working so well.

"Yet somehow this cursed surplus, not to mention the usual laws of supply and demand"—says the Windsor Star editorial of March 6, 1992—"couldn't stop Hydro rates from jumping more than 11% this year. In fact, they're expected to jump another 11% in 1993." That's actually now wrong, because Marc Eliesen's found \$250 million in the sinking fund, so the 11% is now 8.6%, pending the OEB review.

"These facts alone would make most Hydro ratepayers do a slow burn. But it gets better," says the Windsor Star. "Now Ontario Hydro has decided to spend \$100 million to send glossy questionnaires to 2.4 million homes in Ontario asking about energy conservation. Called the Power Saver program, the program will take" and on it goes. I want to make the point here that you've apparently got a serious difficulty on the non-utility part of this program. I think it is a good program. It is going to privatize power in ways that will have an impact on the public utility; we should

not be under any misapprehension about that. If the demand-supply plan updated in January of 1992 is to be believed, non-utility generation is going to play a very significant part of your achieving the goals for the year 2000.

I want to say something about my friend the deputy minister. The deputy minister is Mr George Davies. I went through the file recently looking for some speeches. I was looking to see who's been saying what about the energy policy in the government. I didn't find too many by the acting minister, and quite frankly I wasn't surprised; he's a busy man. That's not to say he hasn't made some. But I found a very interesting speech from the deputy minister.

Again, I hope what I'm building here tonight is a case that there is a gap between promise and performance. There is a gap between rhetoric and reality, whether it's the chairman's salary and what it is and who's going to pay it, whether it's what's going on in Deep River, whether it's how the demand-supply update got dealt with by the new board, or a variety of other of these issues.

But I have a very interesting little piece of information that ought to give comfort to everybody under the gallery and all the ratepayers. I want to read a little bit of the deputy's speech. The deputy made a speech, and the deputy is a very purposeful fellow.

Mrs Fawcett: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I really think my colleague from Renfrew North, who is a most knowledgeable person and is doing such a fine job, deserves the attention of his colleagues. I really think they need to listen.

The Acting Speaker: I want to thank the honourable member. The evening is getting late, but you're absolutely right, even if it's not a point of order. Could we possibly have a little more order in the chamber while the member for Renfrew North continues with his debate. The honourable member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I understand the frustration of honourable members. I say to my friend from Rexdale, it wasn't my plan to make this speech tonight. I can appreciate the frustration. But I come back to the government's agenda. The government's agenda is all about accountability. You see, accountability is time-consuming, accountability involves some of us delving into some of these details. Forgive me for taking the government up on its own suggestion.

I really do want to move along and wind this up, but I want to tell you that the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mr George Davies, made quite an interesting speech on Friday, April 10, 1992, to the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario in Toronto at the Marriott Hotel. He made the speech 10 days after Hydro filed its 1993 electricity rate submission. I want my friend the minister—I'm going pick a few items here, from my favourites.

On April 10, Mr George Davies, the Deputy Minister of Energy, said in a public speech the following—and boy, he's really singing the government line. George does very well here and I applaud him for the vigour of his commitment to the new policy.

Mrs Sullivan: George always was clever.

2220

Mr Conway: George always was clever. George understands keenly this new policy. He said the following in his speech of April 10. He's talking about the demand-supply update and how demand management and energy conservation is really working. He says we're not just dealing with pie in the sky; we're dealing with reality. We're dealing, not just with projections—let me quote directly from his speech:

"Demand management is already working. In 1991, Ontario Hydro reported savings of 319 megawatts from demand management, which was 16% above their target for the year." Who am I to question that? That was the deputy minister speaking about the success in year one, 1991, of demand management; 319 megawatts from demand management, 16% above target. That's interesting.

Then I happened to pick up the Hydro submission tabled at the energy board 10 days before the deputy made his speech bragging about how well it was all working. Guess what Hydro said 10 days before? Let me read this carefully. In its submission to the Ontario Energy Board of April 1, 1993, Hydro said and reported the following:

"In 1991, Ontario Hydro's demand management programs achieved 250 megawatts of saved or shifted load, an increase of 23% over 1990 results. However, these program results were slightly lower than planned, despite the strong efforts in all aspects of program development and delivery to overcome the effects of economic downturn which continues in the marketplace."

My point is this: What have we got here? And this is not some triviality, this is not some marginalia. We have Hydro itself saying, on April 1, "Our 1991 demand management savings were 250 megawatts." They say that in 1991 the results were 250 megawatts—below targets. Ten days later we have the deputy—

Mr Klopp: Ten days earlier.

Mr Conway: Oh no, no, no. If it has been the other way around, I'd say you had a point. But it's not the other way around. Hydro said on April 1, "We didn't make our target, we were at only 250 megawatts," and 10 days later the deputy minister is telling one of the most important audiences in the province that the savings were 319 megawatts or 16% above targets.

Let me say to my friend George the deputy that I am sure this was a slip of the tongue, a slip of the pen. I wouldn't want to think that being around the chairman of Ontario Hydro he's catching some of the disease. But where I come from in Renfrew this is seen as, at the very least, a contradiction. Some people might call it something else.

And it's about something important because, you see, demand management is going to be a very important part of this program. I am here to tell my friends in the government that the early returns, whether on demand management or on some of the particular energy conservation initiatives they have undertaken—the Home Saver program in Espanola, if that's what it's called, the lightbulb program, to name but two—are giving substance to the articulated worries of the energy board and others.

I'm going to conclude my remarks tonight by saying that I know it's not easy and I know this is an extremely complex, complicated business. I think, for example, your plan for the Manitoba purchase is—not your plan, it was our plan—but on the basis of what I now hear I would not be banking very much on that 1,000 megawatts. I wouldn't bank very much on it at all. I see the reliance; you're still counting on the Manitoba purchase. You're still talking about very substantial non-utility generation. People who are actively involved in the business are saying, "They're kidding," at the very least.

I don't take much comfort in the early days of this new initiative. I hope it works. I don't want to be committing vast new dollars to projects that are not going to be necessary. But I ask this question of my friend the acting minister. It is absolutely clear that the policy of this government with respect to meeting intermediate demand, for base load purposes particularly, is going to be gas-fired electric, and that seems to be the plan of most utilities around North America. For a whole host of reasons, no one is building megaprojects. Hydro-Québec is having the problems we all know about Baie James. I was in New England not too many weeks ago and it was interesting seeing some of the developments there, but megaprojects or even mini-megaprojects are not the order of the day, and not just in Ontario, and the recession is giving us some breathing space.

I'm sure my friend the Minister of the Environment is pleased to see that in the short and intermediate term there is a very considerable reliance on the coal-fired plants, something like 4,300 megawatts in the intermediate term are being counted upon from the coal-fired plants. I think there would be some in the environmental community who would be a bit perplexed by that, but we're not going to have any nuclear, and I understand that. We're not going to build any new major hydro-electric for a variety of reasons.

The policy is demand management, all kinds of creative energy conservation, some kind of non-utility generation that appears mysterious even to those people who are going to deliver it for you, a very considerable crank-up and extension of life for the coal-fired plants—that must bring joy to the souls of good, environmentally conscious New Democrats—and most especially, any new demand, particularly for base load purposes, is going to be met by gas-fired electrical generating plants. That's not often stated, but it's there and it's not hard to find.

I just ask you this. If, in three to five or seven years, we find ourselves, along with Illinois and New York and Michigan and a variety of other people, faced with the reality that no one has been doing much during the recession, other than the things I've mentioned, and all of a sudden there is a sudden spurt of demand and we all go rushing to the western natural gas producers, what do you suppose is going to happen to price? I can only guess, but I think that price is going to respond to that kind of demand.

I also ask my friends opposite, what do you think you're going to do in the short term? Because even gas-fired electric turbines, or whatever that technology is, apparently need a lead time of about five years. Apparently the people who produce that highly sophisticated technology have lineups even in quiet times.

2230

I don't know whether Hydro has any plan for that, because you might just succeed with the Ontario Labour Relations Act and other things and get the kind of spurt that Bob Mackenzie anticipates by virtue of that extraordinarily positive stimulus that is the Ontario Labour Relations Amendment Act. What are you going to do? I suspect you're going to be caught quickly between the vise grips of Alberta gas suppliers and West German technologists, who will have what you desperately need, but not at prices or with time lines that you can easily afford.

Again, I might be being too much of a Cassandra, but people who are much more knowledgeable than I am have raised a flag of concern in that connection. But let there be no confusion as to what the ingredients of the energy policy of the NDP government are for the next few years: substantial reliance on coal, a very dependence on gas-fired electrical plants. That is a very obvious reality from anything that has been produced over the course of these hearings.

I simply make the point that as you go forward now, as you go forward in the coming months to spend \$6 billion—

Mr Klopp: And save about \$9 billion.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Huron says savings. I'm going to make one last digression. It's like the OLRA. I was saying to my colleagues in the antechamber earlier today, debating the OLRA with the New Democrats—good people; a very distinguished, honourable, political tradition in this province and country—is none the less like debating papal infallibility with the college of cardinals in Rome. It is just a non-starter and there's just no point.

Bob Mackenzie and I will agree on the time of day and the reality that rain is sometimes wet, but beyond that it's like Copernicus and Galileo. It's actually like Ptolemy and Galileo. It's like the Flat Earth Society and Galileo.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): And you're on the flat earth.

Mr Conway: And I'm on the flat earth, my friend says: the minister of dumps. I thought today for a moment I smelled a political hide or two burning. I've got to tell you, in Marmora and in Whitevale, have some of my NDP friends put their virtue, in all its fullness, on the line. And I've got to tell you, there are wise persons around Durham who will probably remember.

At any rate, the government and the NDP on savings: I want to digress, and my friends from Wellington will remember this from the debate. One of the things about the cost accounting of the New Democrats that fascinated me were the savings. I forget how many billions of dollars were saved by cancelling the Rio Algom and Denison contracts. Just so you know, and I don't expect you to care, those contracts, which I railed against—that's another good example: Where are the architects of those contracts? They're long gone. But those contracts had written into them points of cancellation. So what did the government do? And I don't blame them for doing it. The government

and Hydro cancelled the contracts at that point in the contract when they could by the terms of the contract so cancel.

So what do they want? They want us to give them credit for notional savings that would have accrued if—if, if, if—they had extended the contracts 10 years. That's like saying if I choose at my apartment in Toronto not to renew my lease this next month, when it is up and cancellable, and go elsewhere that I have saved in real dollars moneys that I never intended or had to pay.

This saving is a pure fairy tale. I understand what you did and why you cancelled them, but they go around beating their breasts saying: "We have really cut costs, Mr Speaker and Mr Hydro Ratepayer. We cancelled a contract that we could by law cancel, in 1991 or 1992, and by not extending the contract"—which probably should never have been entered into in the first place, under those terms and conditions—"we've saved ourselves a pile of money." Who the hell ever heard such logic? That is the kind of arithmetic calculation and accounting that reduces my friends in the government to a laughingstock.

I only ask this. There are lots of substantive issues we can debate around this energy policy, but will you cease and desist; and will those good people under the gallery and others in Gerry Moog's silver palace across the way stop writing that kind of nonsense? Because there are some people who see it for what it is. Now of course, my friend the chairman is going around saying: "Well, we're going to save \$9 billion in borrowing costs because we're not going to be building a lot of these expensive megaprojects." That's what he goes around the province saying.

But that of course is not what Hydro's saying to the energy board this week: Their profits are dropping precipitously because their borrowing costs are going up. I understand the difference between short-term borrowing and avoided borrowing over the longer term. But I say to my friends, particularly to the minister of industry, and he will know—he's a very good fellow—from dealing very regularly with business and industry all across the province. He's so effective, he's so good. A friend of mine was at the Ottawa Board of Trade the other day and said, "Heard a good speech, so good we didn't even have to ask a question." I thought I should take lessons. I should, because there's no other way to read an NDP cabinet minister making a speech that left the audience both speechless and unquestionless.

But I say to my friend the minister of business and industry that there are very real concerns in the community about the impacts of this policy and that if a wrong call has been made on some of the substantial elements of the demand-supply update, it's not just residents who are going to be affected, but in fact it's going to be a lot of people in big business and in small business. My friends at Ivaco Steel, who employ 550 people in L'Orignal, said to me, "We are not just worried about the price, but we're also worried about security of supply."

When I look at the submissions to the energy board this year, and see that the demand management is below expectation and that we're just in the early years, that the big savings are anticipated down in 1994, 1995 and 1996, that we are being saved for the moment on much of the

demand by a gut-wrenching and job-busting recession, we'd better hope that when the recovery comes—and hopefully it will come soon—we are going to have a policy that is going to have real answers for real people, who want fairness and equity in energy policy, who want cost-effective energy and who demand energy conservation and who demand management strategies and who want to know that if they are going to expand their job opportunities in this province, they are going to have the electricity at both price and availability as we can best provide it in a competitive international situation.

I have spoken at length, Mr Speaker. I appreciate the indulgence which honourable members have shown. This is for me a critical issue. This is an issue that is at the centre of the province's economic and social wellbeing. If this government is wrong in some of these calculations and some of these expectations, we are going to pay dearly for these mistakes. I hope and pray they are not, but I take my seat observing that early returns on a number of the key questions give me more discomfort than they give me cause for hope and comfort.

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The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Tilson: We have been listening for approximately three hours.

Mr Conway: Was I that long?

Mr Tilson: Well, I guess time flies when you're having fun. We have listened for three hours to the excellent words of the member for Renfrew North, and I think he has made some excellent points that I think we should all look at. This bill essentially is the end of Ontario Hydro as we know it; it really is. It's turning Ontario Hydro into an agency of the government.

The public, of course, is concerned. They appreciate that, but their real fear is what's going to happen in the year 2006 or 2009. Well, I'll tell you what's going to happen, because the predictions are coming from the staff at Ontario Hydro who have researched this to a certain degree. We're going to have what you call blackouts or brownouts. We're not going to have any power. This House could be in blackness.

Interjections.

Hon Mrs Grier: There'd be some merit.

Mr Tilson: It may help us to agree, I agree, but it's a genuine fear. I think one of the main points of the member for Renfrew North was that essentially there have been no studies done to justify what they're doing—none. I think that's the greatest concern.

He has talked about rates. Rates are going up in double-digit increases. Aside from the legality of Mr Eliesen, we don't even know how he is there. We don't even know what his job description is. It's nowhere in the act. There are a lot of very strange things in the act, which the member for Renfrew North has talked about.

The public is concerned about the rates it's going to have to pay. They're concerned about how they're going to lose power. They simply won't have the power to operate our businesses and the power to operate our houses. That

is the main crunch that the people of Ontario are concerned with: all to do away with nuclear stations.

You haven't thought it out as to what you're going to do and as to the repercussions and the irreparable harm that will be caused by the passing of this bill.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Klopp: I can only say that a lot of the comments made were made, in real terms, based on what has been at Ontario Hydro in the past. Indeed we all know that with Hydro you start today and you build for the future, and what we're living in are exactly the problems that we've had. Bill 118 is needed to create a situation where the government is in control of Ontario Hydro, where it isn't just an agency of a few at the top, and where we can come and debate here.

I look at Goderich, which wants to do something in non-utility generation, and can't now because of bad mismanagement by this company 10 years ago. I remember in my riding we were told 10 years ago we needed a hydro line through because there was going to be a shortage in London, and by the time we got through the hearings they were wrong.

He kept talking about information that is not credible. Well, it is true it's not credible. This organization has gone on with a planning department which has said: "Spend, spend, spend. Don't worry about it."

I still remember going to those hearings, and now we have the line, thanks to Mr Peterson. We defeated that line going through some of the most prime agricultural land in Ontario. We went through the system. At the first OMB hearing, farmers beat Ontario Hydro. I still remember that the day before the hearing came out the lawyers phoned the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and said, "Get your farmers together tomorrow so that we can tell them how good the line will be." I still remember my honourable federation president—who reminded the person, "My name is Geraldine, not Gerald, thank you very much"—saying, "How do you know what the OMB hearing is going to be tomorrow?" and the person on the other side said, "We know what it's going to be because we set the system."

If Mr Bill Davis did one thing right, at least he had the intestinal fortitude to agree with that hearing. Unfortunately there was an election and the people made a choice and got rid of him. A few of us said, "Well, at least Mr Peterson, now that the Honourable Jack Riddell is there, will keep this hydro line out." But no, that did not happen. Bill 118 is exactly the start, the beginning, to fix the problems.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mrs Sullivan: I was quite taken with the remarks of the member for Renfrew North because I believe, unlike the member for Huron, that he was speaking to the issues relating to Ontario Hydro's performance today and for tomorrow. Clearly this government believes it has taken full responsibility and accountability for the actions of Ontario Hydro, and I found it quite amazing to hear a New Democratic

parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy standing before this House as the chief apologist for Ontario Hydro.

The member for Renfrew North has pointed out the sceptical response of the Ontario Energy Board to the Ontario Hydro conservation projects. The minister, I believe, and the ministry itself, should be similarly sceptical. The lightbulb giveaways, the showerheads, the numbers of independent so-called conservation schemes that will over the next four years add up to a \$2-billion cost, are clearly not based on a cost-effectiveness analysis and on delivery of appropriate energy conservation programs. The energy board has said it has no confidence at all in Ontario Hydro energy saving initiatives, that the benefits must outweigh the costs and that there should be a full costing of the energy saving initiatives Ontario Hydro is putting forward.

If we are going to be looking at a full energy-electricity program in the future of Ontario, we have to be assured that the conservation programs are cost-effective and indeed that above and beyond that, there is full security of reliable supply of electricity. That is important to every one of us in every part of the province. The member for Renfrew North has underlined those issues in full force.

The Acting Speaker: We can accommodate one final participant.

Mr Stockwell: I certainly enjoyed and learned from the comments made by the member for Renfrew North. It certainly is interesting to hear comments that at the same time as being informative are very entertaining. I might also add that it's much of the same policies and approvals this government makes with respect to Ontario Hydro that cause me grave concerns as the ones they make with respect to budgeting or financing or deficits.

The true measure of how wrongheaded the measures are won't be seen for years to come, many years in some cases, probably long after this government is no longer in power and long after many of the people across the floor and some on this side are no longer here. You'll have very grave concerns with respect to providing reasonable and effective electricity. It seems to be a common thread that runs through much of the debate in this place. It comes from budgeting and many billions of dollars of deficits. It comes through the suggestion that they now have control of this very important utility. What is very clear in my mind is that I think they overestimate their own success. They've clearly underestimated the magnitude of the job. They're going to, in a measurable sense in the not-too-distant future, begin to realize that what they've done is make a grave mistake.

It's very clear in my mind that this will happen, as it happened on publicly run auto insurance, as it happened on Sunday shopping, as it happened on the minimum corporate tax, as it happened on the litany of promises they made during the campaign. The only difficulty is that more than likely they will not be around to clean up the mess. That's what is most disturbing for me, along with the financial mismanagement and the gross mismanagement of this bill.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Renfrew North has two minutes in response.

Mr Conway: I want to thank my colleagues for their observations. I rise in this debate, among other reasons and most especially, because the people I represent in Renfrew county living in communities like Palmer Rapids and Foresters Falls and Douglas and Wilno are deeply concerned about their hydro bills. It's the most significant tax bill those people get. They're going through the roof. They have no hope of some of the alternatives readily available in Toronto or in Kingston or in Pembroke or in Goderich. They are horrified to think their bills are going to be jacked up by 10% and 12%, in part to pay for a fuel switching for their city cousins to lower-cost alternatives that they will never have. The senior citizens in Douglas, Ontario, or in Foresters Falls see that as the most profoundly unfair and inequitable public policy they could ever imagine.

I say to my friend the member for Huron that I appreciated his intervention and I understand from it very clearly what it is he's opposed to, but the discipline and the responsibility of power obligate him and his colleagues to commit themselves to a constructive policy of sensible and achievable energy alternatives.

I entirely accept their reorientation away from the supply side of the past to a much more demand management and energy conservation ethic for the future, but I say to him that I spent a good bit of tonight focusing on the early returns, and the early returns on the conservation initiatives, on the demand management targets and your failure to meet them caused grave concern to thoughtful analysts, most especially people at the energy board, who predicted last year that ratepayers and citizens generally ought to be on guard for what may become a policy of political expediency and not one of energy security and self-sufficiency into the future.

2250

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate on the third reading of Bill 118.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I'm pleased to rise at this late hour this evening to debate Bill 118. It's a pleasure to follow the member for Renfrew North, although with his having spoken for three hours, my presentation might make a few points that are overlapping with his, and I expect they will. But I still want to rise and give my contribution with respect to how this bill will affect my constituents in the riding of Wellington, and provide some of my observations of my experience travelling with the standing committee on resources development, of which I was a part during the January break.

I suppose I should start by explaining the bill as I see it, Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act, which was given first reading in this Legislature June 5, 1991, by one minister, second reading October 21, 1991, by a second Minister of Energy and now tonight third reading by a third acting Minister of Energy, June 4, 1992.

This bill is intended to do as follows: make the Deputy Minister of Energy a non-voting member of the board of directors of Ontario Hydro; increase the membership of

the board of directors of Ontario Hydro from 17 members to 22 members; and the now chairman of the board becomes the chief executive officer of the corporation when in the past the chief executive officer was the president of Ontario Hydro.

All this becomes effective retroactive to the date of first reading, June 1991. Later on the bill indicates changes in the way the Minister of Energy will be authorized to issue policy directives to Ontario Hydro when in the past policy statements were issued by the minister. Later on we see that the bill will change Hydro so energy conservation measures can be paid through Hydro rates. Municipal corporations and commissions may treat the cost of an energy conservation program as a current operating expense or as a capital expenditure, at their discretion.

So we have Bill 118 and we've listened to what the government has put forward in terms of its arguments over the past number of weeks, months, now a year since this bill was first introduced. Basically, their arguments can be summarized in six or seven points.

The government has indicated repeatedly that there is a need to control demand for electricity, power, not controlling and regulating the supply, as has been the case in the past. We've seen a government that is more interested in demand management initiatives, and it is going forward with this bill in the effort to put forward fuel-switching initiatives to save megawatts of energy.

I think the next point they continue to make repeatedly is that they see the need and they wish to put Ontario Hydro under some measure of control, because they feel it's been out of control over the years. They see a necessity for additional accountability to them as the government. They want to issue policy directives which, as I said earlier, are different from policy statements. Directives, in the words of the bill, indicate that these are orders that must be carried out, I believe the wording in the bill is "immediately and efficiently by the board of directors."

The government indicates that there is a need to open the doors at Hydro to provide more openness. "No more closed doors," I believe the member for Kitchener said in his presentation to us in Thunder Bay.

The government talks about the need for enhanced energy efficiency. That's one area where I don't think anybody argues with them. The need for energy efficiency is very clear. I think we all support that. We all support the most effective and sensible use of all the energy resources we have.

The fifth argument they continue to make is the need for expanding the board. They're going from 17 members of the board to 22 and they're saying that more groups need to be represented. In the past, essentially, they say it's been an old boys' club and there haven't been certain minorities represented on the board, so they've got to expand the board and put more people from various groups that they select on the board.

Sixth, they talk about the environmental benefits that Bill 118 will apparently create. They hope there will be less sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions into our atmosphere from the burning of coal and they hope to

convert much of their generating capacity over to natural gas. They see environmental benefits of that.

Last, they talk about the economic benefits of this bill. They indicate that their \$6-billion expenditure over 10 years on demand management initiatives will create jobs, and they point to the lightbulb deal that was signed by the government with Canadian General Electric of Mississauga, I believe, just recently.

Those are essentially the points they make and the points they put forward in defence of this bill. But you look at this bill and you look at the arguments that are made and put forward on its behalf by the government, and you find that on the surface these points seem very appealing. Of course, the New Democrats are very good at promoting their ideas and their agenda. They're very good salesmen and saleswomen of their ideas. The argument appears very appealing. But we all know that if \$6 billion is going to be spent, someone is going to be paying for it. We all know it's going to be the ratepayers, the consumers of hydro, who are going to be paying this \$6-billion expenditure over 10 years.

That guarantees higher hydro rates in the short term and, I believe, higher hydro rates in the medium term, and I can't project any longer than that. Because of Bill 118 you can guarantee that we're talking about higher hydro rates for everybody.

I think one of the underlying motives of the government with respect to putting forward this bill is its historic concern about Hydro. They don't trust Hydro; they never have. They've used the words: "It's a monster. It's a huge monolith that's out of control." They constantly use that sort of rhetoric. I think what they're trying to do with Hydro with this bill and the directive power that it gives the Minister of Energy is to bring Hydro to its knees. I think they want to see Hydro smaller, they want to see it in a more difficult condition financially. I'm not sure what their plan is, but I think in their long-term game plan they hope to see Hydro broken up. I think that's very apparent with respect to what they're doing with this bill.

The most difficult thing to know about this bill is it creates very uncertain prospects for supply in the future. We know that Bill 118, as a part of government policy, will in fact create a great deal of uncertainty, that we don't know that the hydro supply we've grown accustomed to over the years is going to be there in the next 10 years.

Bill 118 is only part of their total energy policy. They started off with their throne speech in November 1990 by announcing a nuclear energy moratorium. They said, "We're not going to build any new nuclear generating facilities." Of course we weren't particularly surprised about that statement because we know the NDP has historically opposed nuclear energy. We might ask why. I've asked that question of many of the NDP members informally and they laugh at me. They say: "Have you never heard of Chernobyl? Have you never heard of Three Mile Island?" Yes, I have, but I know a little about Ontario Hydro.

I know a little about the Candu reactor system and I know a little about the safety record of the Candu system. There's no comparison. There's a design difference with

the Candu system which is inherently superior to the Three Mile Island design, to any design in North America. The design of the East Bloc nuclear generating facilities is something else again, and of course we know there's an abysmal safety record there. But of course the NDP doesn't want to really go into the details of the Candu system. They equate them all together and they feel that one's as bad as the other.

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I submit that the NDP doesn't fully understand nuclear energy. They fear it because they don't understand it. That's essentially where they're coming from. Perhaps the word "nuclear" scares them a little bit. Nuclear energy is sort of like nuclear weapons. I sometimes wonder if they know the difference between a B-52 bomber and a Candu reactor. It's all sort of the same thing—nuclear energy and nuclear systems. It scares them, frankly. I don't think they have a rational position upon which to base their opposition. I have yet to hear it. I hope, if there's a response to my speech, that I will.

We have the nuclear moratorium. We see that one of the cheapest and most environmentally sensitive methods of generating electricity, which is through uranium, is going to be shelved. We see that the government wants to convert to demand management from supply management to try to reduce the consumption of electricity.

Fourth, with the NDP energy policy, we see a tendency and a desire to politicize highly technical energy issues. In the past it has been felt that, politicians not being experts in energy issues and none of us having a degree in nuclear physics that I'm aware of, it's best to leave it to the experts. It's too important to be screwed up, frankly, by politicians who are generalists, who don't understand exactly how the thing works. With Bill 118, we see directive power coming from the Minister of Energy, and frankly that worries me very much.

A number of members of the NDP have brought up the issue of the cost of Darlington. They claim nuclear energy is very expensive and they cite the cost of Darlington. When Darlington was announced in 1981 it was estimated it would cost \$6.1 billion to build. Over time the total cost of Darlington, when it finally goes into production—which the NDP, I believe, is going to allow; it has indicated that it will—and starts producing electricity in 1993, is going to be \$13.5 billion.

So we see a significant increase from the projected cost to the actual cost when it's finally built. We wonder why that happened. Why were the costs increased as they were over the period of years? If we look at these numbers we find that political interference and a number of changes in the construction plan, as ordered by politicians, are a significant part of the cost. About 70% of the cost increase from the original projection versus the ultimate cost is associated with schedule delays and financial policy changes. The balance is associated with scope changes, mainly due to more stringent regulatory requirements. So we have a safer Darlington. Naturally that small component of it is making the project more expensive, but we have a safer project as a result. It's interesting to see that figure come forward which the NDP prefers to ignore.

There's a concept called peak demand. Peak demand is the day of the year when the most hydro is required by the province of Ontario. If you're running the hydro system, you've got to have enough generating capacity to meet peak demand on that very day; otherwise people have brownouts or blackouts. Peak demand in Ontario is approximately 23,000 megawatts. We hit our peak demand in January, generally. In January 1991 we hit our peak demand for that year.

The basis upon which the government talks about its fuel-switching initiatives, the underlying premise of the fuel-switching idea, is that more people will switch to natural gas furnaces and their electricity furnaces will be scrapped, I guess, so that your electricity demand will be down. There's a problem with that in that summer peak demand is rapidly approaching winter peak demand. It's because of the extensive use in our society of air-conditioning. Summer peak demand is approximately 21,000 megawatts. We generally reach that in July. So we're coming very close to the winter peak demand. There have been many projections put forward that eventually the total peak for the whole year will be in the summertime, as I say, because of the extensive use of air-conditioning systems.

That calls into question the whole underlying premise behind fuel switching, because fuel switching, in my understanding, will not lead to natural gas air-conditioning systems in the near term. It won't. So if we have a peak demand that we can't meet in the summertime, I'm not sure what we'd do except perhaps throw up our hands and say, "There are blackouts and it was all the Tories' fault and the Liberals' fault, because they left us with such a mess." I assume that's what they'll say if that indeed happens under their watch.

There are quite a number of issues this bill brings forward. When I was travelling with the committee in the wintertime I felt it was a real privilege to be a member of that committee serving with the member for Lanark-Renfrew, who spent over 30 years of his life working at Hydro, who has a knowledge of Ontario Hydro that's absolutely unsurpassed by anyone in this Legislature and who has a sincere desire to serve his constituents—the knowledge he brought forward was so invaluable to the committee—and with the member for Renfrew North, who is the dean of the Liberal Party now, I guess. He's been here for 17 years now. With his extensive knowledge of Ontario Hydro issues it was a very interesting committee and I learned a great deal.

Many presentations were brought forward as we travelled around the province. We had excellent presentations from groups that were concerned about the economic impacts of Hydro, including the Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario. This group represents a great many companies that are great users of electricity, mainly manufacturing concerns. The Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario consumes about 16% of Ontario Hydro's primary energy sales, at a cost of more than \$200 million. So they are a big consumer of electricity.

I think it's quite obvious you would expect that any big consumer of electricity has a serious interest in trying to make sure its hydro bill is as low as possible so as to

maintain a competitive edge on its competitors. It's not surprising that is the case.

We had a number of different presentations from individual companies that testified they had gone to great lengths to try to keep their energy bill as low as possible, again to ensure they've got a reasonable chance at profitability so they can keep their operations going.

We had people from Quebec and Ontario Paper Co. They have a mill in Thorold employing approximately 1,000 people, consuming 80 megawatts of power at a cost of \$31 million a year. Their electric bill represents 20% of their total manufacturing cost. So if you've got one cost within your total manufacturing cost that is 20%, you definitely have an interest in trying to be as efficient as possible and keep your consumption as low as possible.

Of course the whole assumption of this bill is that these companies can save more power than they're already saving, which frankly I highly doubt. At least the companies that came forward to us indicated a great interest in keeping their hydro bill as low as possible and were able to demonstrate in many ways the various things they had done over a number of years to try to keep their hydro bill manageable. So we had a great number of these presentations from various industries.

We received one from Dow Chemical. I know the minister's parliamentary assistant might be quite interested in that. I know of the interest he has in that company, it being one of the large employers in his riding. In Dow Chemical he has a huge consumer of electricity to run its operations. In 1991, power consumption at the Sarnia division averaged approximately 140 megawatts, of which 10% was purchased from Ontario Hydro. They make a lot of their own power through a very efficient cogeneration process, so they have done a great deal on their own.

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But they are very concerned about Bill 118. The bill will deviate further from the power-at-cost principle. They have concerns about that. They see this government using Ontario Hydro and the borrowing capacity of Hydro for its social objectives. They made reference to that and they talked about fuel switching. I thought it was an excellent presentation. I hope the member for Sarnia will in fact bring forward the views of his constituents later on in this process.

Two of the most interesting presentations that we received were from the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1000. This is the union that represents the workers who are employed by Ontario Hydro. They have grave concerns about Bill 118. Again, these people understand Hydro. They work with it every single day. Among labour people, who is more knowledgeable about Hydro than CUPE 1000?

They expressed very serious concern to the committee. There was concern that they weren't consulted by this labour government. I'll briefly read what it says here: "For the record, it makes no difference if other parties are equally ignored. Different behaviour was expected from this government and in this instance it was not forthcoming."

If you look through the presentation that was made by CUPE 1000, it is very similar to the concerns made by

other groups, concern about the expansion of the board of directors, concern about government control and government not really knowing what it's doing with Hydro and perhaps making errors that will be compounded in the coming years and be very damaging.

They concluded by stating the following:

"The proposed amendments to the Power Corporation Act indicate that the government wants to use Ontario Hydro to carry out its agenda for energy in Ontario. However, actions such as the lack of consultation with major stakeholders, the reluctance to give CUPE 1000 direct representation on Hydro's board, and the commitment to privatize both energy source and electrical generation raises serious concerns about the appropriateness of that agenda for CUPE 1000 members and the ratepayers of Ontario."

It's a very interesting presentation. The union that is involved with Hydro is very seriously concerned about this bill.

We had many presentations from local public utilities commissions as well as the Municipal Electric Association, which is the umbrella group that represents all the municipal utilities, excellent presentations, all of which I would say were ignored by the government. They didn't listen; they weren't interested in listening. They were physically there. I think that from their perspective they were doing something wonderful. They were enduring this great litany of negative comment about what they were doing. But they didn't listen, and that made us wonder if the whole process wasn't a farce. I don't know what else to conclude after spending four weeks of public hearings listening to groups that made very legitimate presentations and actually nothing apparently coming forward.

Of course there were certain groups that came forward in support of the government's position on the bill. We've heard from the member for Renfrew North his characterization of some of them, but it was interesting that many of them had essentially the exact information that the last group you had heard from the last town had. It was as if they were circulating around information that was trying to assist the groups that wanted to come forward. A \$50,000 figure was consistently applied to the expansion of the network of Hydro so that you could add one additional house to the hydro network; \$50,000 was the cost, we were told, to add one house to the grid.

Of course, when my colleague the member for Lanark-Renfrew questioned that number, we found it was erroneous. It was completely false, it was completely exaggerated. It was roughly 10 times what the actual cost was. Frankly, I think there was a lot of rather erroneous information flowing around that was being presented as fact. It appeared to be not the most productive use of our time, I felt.

The main concerns of the Municipal Electric Association are quite simple. They're concerned as well about the lack of consultation. They are a very important stakeholder in Hydro. In fact, municipal public utilities are significant shareholders in Hydro. They were not consulted about Bill 118 until June 5, the day the bill was first presented. That indicates, I think, a government that isn't interested in their perspective and isn't prepared to consult them.

They are very concerned about the government's intention to issue binding policy directives which would give the corporation really very little say over its own affairs in answering directly to the government. They were concerned about the further degradation of the principle of power at cost, which has always been an important leg of Hydro. In the past, I suppose the government will tell you, there has been substantial movement away from power at cost, but I think the principle is still very important, and every time we further deviate from power at cost it becomes irrelevant. You can call it what you want, but after this bill is passed, if indeed it is this evening, the power-at-cost principle will definitely be relegated to the history books.

The Municipal Electric Association was concerned about the demonstrated propensity of this government to use Ontario Hydro for its social policy goals, as was evidenced by its package to bail out Elliot Lake as well as Kapuskasing. But \$65 million of the money that's going into Elliot Lake of the \$250 million total going into the northern Ontario heritage fund is coming directly from Ontario Hydro, and the ratepayers of Ontario Hydro around the province will be paying for that.

I've never heard of anyone over the course of our hearings who was opposed to some sort of assistance for Elliot Lake, because we recognize that there is a serious local problem there. But very many people question the effectiveness and question the reality, I guess, of having money coming out of Hydro ratepayers when in fact power at cost had been the order of the day in the past.

We've heard a number of different things about fuel substitution in this debate as it has unfolded. Fuel substitution concerns energy conservation, and nobody here, I don't think, is opposed to fuel substitution. Nobody's opposed to energy conservation. Where we differ and where we're opposed to this government is on who is paying for fuel substitution.

I think the view of our party, as enunciated by our critic the member for Lanark-Renfrew, is that the market should be the one that dictates fuel substitution and the need for fuel substitution. In fact, the Minister of Energy in his statement to us in Thunder Bay indicated I think that the price of natural gas was one third the cost of electricity. My question immediately was, "If that's the case, if that's true, why is that not enough to encourage people to switch?" Well, of course, it is enough and, as we've heard, many people are switching if they have the option. If they're building a new house or moving into a new house, natural gas is the fuel of choice because it seemed to be cheaper, it seemed to be very clean, it seemed to be efficient. So I would question very much if we need this sort of direct government intervention to try to force fuel substitution when it's already happening as a result of the dynamics of the free market.

If you do have fuel substitution that is provided by the government and \$6 billion worth of incentives to encourage fuel substitution, you know that the \$6 billion is going to be added on to the hydro rates of every single ratepayer in this province and they're going to be paying for it. There are people, frankly, who don't want to convert to

anything other than electricity. They've come to like it, they feel safe with it, and if you've got electric baseboard heating in your home you have a system that requires very little maintenance. It's more expensive to keep up over the ongoing period, but you probably don't have duct work in your ceilings, in your walls or in your floor. In order to convert to natural gas, you've got to rip out your walls, ceilings and floors. So you wonder how many people are going to want to take advantage, even if the government does give away generous incentives, because it's going to cause severe disruption in their own homes, and that's something which is a basic commonsense fact that the government's not addressed and doesn't seem interested in listening to.

There are many, many other issues that I would like to get into, but the lateness of the hour will keep me brief. The issue of hydro rates—we've seen a projection that there will be a 44% increase in hydro rates. Last year we had something like an 11% increase in hydro rates and this year they're projecting 8%. They have not yet, to my knowledge, denied the suggestion that there won't be a 44% increase over the three- to four-year period.

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We're living in a time of very low inflation. For this government to say there's going to be an 11% increase in hydro rates and then 8% next year, in a period when inflation right now is running 2%, is a phenomenal increase in real terms. We know that some of the component cost of the increase is coming from the government's various social uses of hydro dollars. We also know the fuel-switching \$6-billion incentive program is going to be reflected in hydro costs. We know that is where it's coming from, at least a significant proportion of it.

In my riding I have a great many seniors who are on fixed incomes and they see the prospect of higher hydro rates as very frightening. They see all their costs going up and their incomes being fixed. Inflation being what it is, as I said, if they have a bit of money put in the bank, their interest income is down significantly. When they see the prospect of a 44% increase in rates as a result of the energy policy of this government, they're very concerned and very frightened. I sympathize with them.

Farmers in my riding have good reason to be concerned. They see these 44% increases over a period of years. Speaking to farmers in my riding—for example, a farmer in Arthur township, who has a good-sized dairy herd, consumes a lot of electricity because he has a big barn and he has to heat it and he has to light it and he has to use his milking machine. His hydro bill is about \$1,000 per month. He sees the prospect of a 44% increase in that single cost of running his farm as being something that's going to be very difficult for him to pay over time. He sees that as one other initiative that is going to make it very difficult for him to continue farming.

Industry: In my riding we have concern that we don't have enough industrial jobs in our area. We're trying to attract more, but the prospect of higher and higher hydro costs is making it more difficult for us to attract industry to our riding.

When we were travelling on the committee, we went into a community very close to my own. My riding surrounds the city of Guelph. We went into Guelph and we heard presentations from a great many people from my home riding. When I was on the subcommittee of the standing committee on resources development I urged the committee to go to Guelph because I wanted, frankly, presentations from people from the community of Rockwood.

The hamlet of Rockwood in my riding is very close to the city of Guelph—under five miles, actually. It is a sizeable community of approximately 2,000 people but has no natural gas service. There have been a lot of individuals in the riding—the township council is supportive of it now—who have for a long time wanted to have access to natural gas service.

I have had meetings with Union Gas representatives. They tell me they can't provide gas service to Rockwood because of the cost of running the line. As the member for Renfrew North alluded to, they are prohibited by Ministry of Energy regulations from penalizing their existing customers in order to extend the line. Of course, this is precisely what this bill does to consumers of electricity: penalizes existing customers in favour of other customers. So we see a really strange dichotomy there that the government hasn't addressed.

The demand-supply plan issue is very relevant, I think. We saw a 25-year demand-supply plan presented in 1989 that outlined the energy needs for the province for the next 25 years. It was presented to the Ontario Energy Board and great discussion ensued. But, of course, while our committee was in the north—I'm not sure what community we were in—we were flabbergasted, frankly, to find the update to the demand-supply plan dropped in our laps.

Of course the numbers were totally different. The objectives for demand management were, I think, double what they initially were. The original demand-supply plan had taken five years to produce, and this one was put together, after Mr Eliesen was appointed chairman, in I think five months. It was totally different, a projection for demand that was considerably less. Frankly, we were flabbergasted because it presumed that Bill 118 was going to pass, because inherent in the new updated demand-supply plan were significant demand management initiatives that Hydro at that time was not authorized to undertake. So we knew at that point that our committee work was totally a waste of time, that the government intended to go ahead with the bill in its own way, as we will probably see this evening or Monday when we go forward with the vote.

When you look at the jobs that may be lost as a result of Bill 118 and higher hydro rates, I think you've got to reflect on it, especially at this time in our economic cycle. Anyone who may happen to be watching our proceedings this evening will find it quite unusual that we're discussing hydro rates tonight, when yesterday we had a major Sunday shopping announcement and the government's new policy on that, and this afternoon the labour law reform issue was announced. It seems rather unusual to be discussing hydro at 11:30 at night.

But higher hydro rates are without a doubt hurting our capacity to compete with neighbouring jurisdictions. It's

just another problem we have, and if this government continues to undertake policies which will ensure higher hydro rates in the future, it's going to make it very difficult for Ontario to compete with neighbouring jurisdictions. I think the government had better reflect on that. Hopefully, over the weekend they will reflect on the various comments that have come forward over the course of this debate and rethink Bill 118.

We in our party have consistently called upon the need to establish a committee of this Legislature to study all energy issues. We would like to see Bill 118 referred to that committee for further study, because we think the direction this government is going with respect to the energy issue and the hydro issue in particular leaves us open to the possibility of blackouts in the future and insufficient supply of electricity. That's the sort of thing that's scaring industry, which requires certainty of supply. I personally feel that we may live to rue the day that Bill 118 was presented in this Legislature because of this potential for very serious negative consequences that may result if the policy directive power by the Minister of Energy is misused.

I'll conclude with that point, and thank you for your indulgence at this late hour.

The Acting Speaker: Questions and/or comments?

Mr Huget: I thank the member for Wellington for his comments. My problem with the member and his party is that they seem to want to stay stuck in the past. I think it's important to talk about the past, because in the past there was a tendency to accept rising demand as a given. It was almost something that was ordained by the gods, and the only obligation of planners in those days was to make sure that there was enough supply to meet the demand, whatever that demand was. The member for Wellington's party was a chief architect of that approach.

The supply-at-all-cost approach is largely responsible for this year's 11.8% hydro rate increase and the 8.6% increase proposed for next year. Fully three quarters of those increases will go towards the costs of bringing Darlington on stream and the costs of repairing and upgrading existing nuclear facilities, so demand management makes sense.

We've heard the criticisms that Hydro's demand management targets are unrealistic, that they're pie in the sky, but I can assure this House that there is nothing pie in the sky about it. The program is already producing impressive results. Last year Hydro reported savings of 250 megawatts of demand management, which is enough to meet the electrical needs of a city the size of St Catharines.

Hydro predicts that the Home Saver program will save more than 90 megawatts of peak power and help households save a total of \$350 million. Those savings are still in the future, but Hydro's demand management activities have already produced an important result. Their success has allowed Hydro to defer major new supply projects in its updated demand-supply plan. That will reduce Hydro's borrowing needs by about \$9 billion and protect tomorrow's ratepayers from the kind of increases we're seeing today.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

2330

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I just wanted to point out what an excellent job my colleague the member for Wellington did. His remarks clearly pointed out, as did the member for Renfrew North's, that the tinkering the government has done with this legislation hasn't fooled anyone. Our local public utilities continue to be adamantly opposed to this legislation, as do the people of Ontario.

The member also raised the question, why should the government go through with such an awful, ill-conceived piece of legislation? The only conclusion we can come to is that the government is hell-bent on taking control of Ontario Hydro and having cabinet essentially run Ontario Hydro. I think it was pointed out by a number of speakers this evening that this is the demise of Ontario Hydro as we know it, and certainly the demise of the principle of power at cost, which has always been a very proud part of not only our tradition but the economic strategy here in Ontario.

The government tells us it's going to bring forward an economic and industrial strategy. We've not seen that. In fact, we've not seen any evidence that the government is seriously considering helping private business in this province create jobs.

To send directives and have the authority to send directives to Ontario Hydro to essentially make it a social arm, a social agency, of this government is very ill conceived and will not be tolerated by the taxpayers of Ontario. They've already seen their hydro rates increase as a result of Ontario Hydro being used as a social agency to bail out communities, and I think the government should be listening to the people of Ontario, who are fed up with this government changing agencies that were doing a very good job in Ontario.

There's no doubt that Ontario Hydro requires tough management. That can be done under the current system. To tinker with the bill and try and pretend that they've made concessions to the public utilities commissions and to the taxpayers I think is misleading the public. I'm pleased that the member for Wellington was able to point out those points this evening. I think he did an excellent job and I support everything he said. I'm pleased he had the opportunity to express those views in a very forceful way.

The Acting Speaker: Further questions and/or comments?

Mr Stockwell: I want to address the savings issue. Much as the Minister of the Environment argues about the reduction in waste going to landfill, the same argument applies to the reductions at Ontario Hydro. Clearly, during a recession demands at landfill sites, as are demands made on Ontario Hydro, are reduced. When plants close, when manufacturing areas close, they're reduced significantly because there are fewer and fewer plants operating. So the argument that simply because there is a reduction therefore means their programs are successful does not necessarily hold water.

So more and more jobs close, and with the new labour legislation it appears they're going to take credit for a further reduction in the amount of energy needed at Ontario Hydro. They're also going to take credit for a great reduction in the 3Rs for the Ministry of the Environment because there are fewer and fewer plants, fewer and fewer jobs and fewer and fewer demands. Eventually, when this recession ends, these will again peak. You can measure apples to apples at that time of how successful the 3Rs were and how successful these programs are that are supposed to reduce the demand.

It's a very poor time to compare the amount of use from, say, two or three years ago, as it's a very poor time to measure the amount of waste going to landfill sites. Because whether or not they understand it or realize it, there's a recession. When a recession hits there's less demand. With less demand you have fewer needs.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. We can accommodate one further participant.

Mr Tilson: I congratulate the member for Wellington on the number of issues he's raised, particularly on the short term, the whole issue of cost; the issue that the switching initiatives, the subsidy policies being suggested by this government to encourage people to switch from electrical power to other resources, we simply can't afford.

The corporation clearly now is in a \$35-million deficit. I have no idea where this government thinks we're going, with the double-digit increases we're having, by suggesting these switching initiatives and that this government is going to take over that type of subsidy program. During the period of economic decline we're into, encouraging customers to look at other forms of energy is one thing, but by suggesting that we're going to subsidize those customers on the massive scale that's being suggested we simply can't afford.

On the long term, there's no question of the genuine fears of the public and of the members who have spoken from our party, the critic of our party as well as the last speaker, the member for Wellington. The fear of blackouts in the future as a result of this bill's policy are a great concern to the people of the province. It's mentioned constantly in the press, it's mentioned constantly in this House, and I hope this government has taken into consideration all of those remarks that have been made because, ladies and gentlemen, we are going to have brownouts or blackouts as a result of your policies. There's no need for it, and all for the fear of nuclear generating stations.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Wellington has two minutes in response.

Mr Arnott: I'd like to thank my neighbours the member for Simcoe West, the member for Dufferin-Peel and the member for Etobicoke West, for their responses to my comments.

To the member for Sarnia, who spoke on behalf of the government, he has indicated that he feels our caucus and I would like to turn the clock back. Well, in some ways I would like to turn back the clock in Ontario to the days when we had jobs in Ontario, when industry was flourishing, when communities were strong, when families were

strong, those 42 years when the Progressive Conservative Party was in power. I would like to turn back the clock to those days from 1943 to 1985. We weren't perfect. We've never stated that we were perfect, and admit we made many mistakes, but we were infinitely better than this bunch over here today.

His suggestion that demand management initiatives have already been realized is absolute bunk. Ontario Hydro has no authority to undertake demand management initiatives. The only thing that's reducing the demand for hydro today is the recession that this bunch is keeping us in much longer than we need to be, with higher taxes, more regulations, labour law reform and higher hydro rates. It goes on and on. You wonder if they have an interest in keeping us in the recession. I don't know if they do or what, but you almost wonder, with the continual policies of ineptitude and continual policy reversals we see on a weekly basis.

I just hope they take the comments that have come forward on this third reading debate and reconsider what was presented at the standing committee on resources development over the time we studied Bill 118. I hope they'll reconsider their position on Bill 118 and send it to a committee.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on third reading of Bill 118? Seeing none, does the honourable Minister of Energy have some final words?

Hon Mr Charlton: A couple of very quick comments, first of all to thank my parliamentary assistant for all of his very able work on this legislation in the committee hearings. I also thank the members in opposition who worked on that committee and who spoke here in the House. There were a number of interesting comments both yesterday and today. I could spend hours responding to some of those interesting comments, but I won't.

But I will take one thing that I suggested to members across the way in my opening remarks and repeat that suggestion, specifically to the two members who spoke tonight, the member for Renfrew North and the member for Wellington, that they should take the time to sit down and read the report of the select committee on energy from

1986. For the member for Wellington, he can read in the dissent in that report very clearly this party's position on nuclear and why the Candu system doesn't work, because it's there in black and white in a public document.

For the member for Renfrew North, he referred tonight to the changes that were tabled at the DSPS hearing earlier this year vis-à-vis the document that was tabled in 1989. The member should know that there was a document that preceded both of those. It was called the DSOS, the demand/supply options study, where all of the options were looked at. All of the numbers that were tabled earlier this year are there and referred to in that select committee report in 1986. Nothing has changed; Hydro has just learned what it's capable of.

This bill I commend to the House, and I thank the members for participating in this debate. I move third reading.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Charlton has moved third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Just a moment. I have received a request from the chief government whip:

"Pursuant to standing order 27(g), I request that the vote on the motion by the Honourable Brian Charlton for third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act, be deferred until immediately following routine proceedings on Monday, June 8, 1992." This will so occur.

The honourable government House leader.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, before I move adjournment of the House pursuant to standing order 53, I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, June 8, 1992, I will announce the business for Monday, June 8, 1992, and Thursday, June 11.

Tuesday, June 9, will be an opposition name in the name of the Progressive Conservative caucus.

Wednesday, June 10, 1992, is a non-confidence motion put forward by the Liberal caucus.

The House adjourned at 2343.

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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

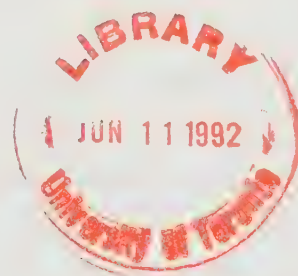
Monday 8 June 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 8 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 8 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

NORTHERN POLICE SERVICES

Mr Frank Miclash (Kenora): We in the north have a tremendous problem when it comes to OPP services. I am not talking at all about the officers and those who back them up. As for the quality of people we have serving on the detachments throughout the northwest, I'm sure we could find no better.

What I wish to bring to your attention is the lack of personnel. Can you imagine—and this happened the other morning in my riding in the OPP district of Kenora to be exact—someone calling the district detachment to report a mess of garbage, a hazard, that had just been dumped on the Trans-Canada Highway and being told that there were only two officers on duty and one of them was in court?

This is a detachment that covers 885 kilometres of highway, the towns of Keewatin and Jaffray and Melick, with a population of somewhere around 6,800 people. Then we have their summer boat patrol to cover another 4,000 or 5,000 people on Lake of the Woods. Again, one officer to service these needs.

Let's take a look at the area of the detachment of Sioux Lookout, with a population of 6,500 people year-round, another 5,000 summer residents, 607 kilometres of highways, and as well a marine unit in the summer. Again, with a complement of some 19 personnel, of which only 14 are constables available at any one time, this detachment is often left with only one officer to service their needs between 6 pm and 5 am. In light of these situations, I call on the government to take immediate action to address the needs of these residents serviced by the OPP.

OAKVILLE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario will open the Oakville Waterfront Festival on June 12, and it will continue through the 13th. I invite everybody to come and share with us in this three-day festival of celebration of our natural harbours and heritage. There will be entertainers, boat shows, street and video dances, a pancake breakfast, boat races and a musical revue. Participants in the festival will form a human chain along the seven kilometres of Lakeshore Road to toast the nation's 125th birthday.

The town of Oakville is alive. The spirit that is Oakville is its people, and that spirit has been very evident throughout the last year of the festival. The combined expertise of the town and the entrepreneurial spirit of the chamber of commerce, supported wholeheartedly by the mayor and the wonderful sponsors, have combined to provide a great inspiration.

What has galvanized the town is the recognition that we can all work together. People are behind the success of

this waterfront festival, all the hundreds and hundreds of individual volunteers who gave a little time or a lot of time, but always their enthusiasm and their interest. They can feel justifiably pleased with themselves.

I thank all of you. We are all proud of you. I am proud to be your member of provincial Parliament. We look forward to everybody coming to Oakville during the waterfront festival.

LEONA OLBey

Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville): Last Thursday evening the Minister of Citizenship and the Lieutenant Governor presented the Ontario senior achievement awards to 20 very special people.

It's with great pride that I pay special tribute to one of those recipients, Leona Olbey. Mrs Olbey is a constituent of Windsor-Walkerville and was nominated by the Greater Windsor Senior Citizens Centre for the way in which she lives up to their motto, "Strong spirits, young hearts, active minds."

She puts in many hours raising funds for the centre by checking coats at nights and on weekends at the Cleary Auditorium and Convention Centre. She also makes and sells soup and sandwiches at the seniors centre and has comforted many people as a long-time volunteer at the Hospice of Windsor.

Mrs Olbey is determined to keep her heritage alive as well. She has been volunteering with the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre in Amherstburg for 10 years and has been a supporter of the museum since its beginning in 1975.

She is a woman who places a very high value on the importance of education and for the last 24 years has been involved with the Hour-A-Day Study Club. Her responsibilities include screening and awarding scholarships and bursaries to young black students in Windsor and Essex county.

Even with that busy schedule there is still plenty of time to practise her faith at the British Methodist Episcopal Church and to be with her husband, Howard, and their family. Mrs Olbey is a non-stop volunteer. Her caring, innovation and leadership are an inspiration to all of us who know her. It is with great pleasure that I add my congratulations and thanks for her contribution to our community.

CULTURAL FUNDING

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): I am shocked at the funding shortfall that has befallen the Art Gallery of Ontario. I am nervous about the remarkable bureaucratic Newspeak in the minister's announcement.

The cash-starved Art Gallery of Ontario is one of two or three cultural showpieces that are the spirit of Ontario. During times of fiscal restraint the emotional and spiritual health of our community requires that funding for the arts be maintained.

The Toronto Star noted in its lead editorial on June 6 that the minister "has effectively slashed the operating budget of the Art Gallery of Ontario to \$9.5 million from \$12.1 million." Close to half of the gallery's staff may lose their jobs.

But there are other questions. Must the second \$1 million referred to in the minister's announcement really be tied to a doubtfully needed restructuring and reorganization of the gallery, or could it better be designated clearly to maintain operations and avoid layoffs? Indeed, is the gallery really in need of restructuring at all, or was that idea simply floated to hedge a \$1-million grant? Will the gallery ever see that money? Even if we share the NDP government's apparent view that the AGO needs to be brought closer to the people, surely funding cuts are not the way to achieve that goal.

The minister boasts that she has given the AGO an opportunity. Some opportunity; an opportunity perhaps to swallow hard, choke a little and try to maintain service while the rug is being pulled from under this showcase of the spirit of Ontario.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On June 3 the Minister of Culture and Communications revealed her cowardice when she furtively issued a news release announcing drastic cuts in her ministry's funding for its agencies and transfer partners. The minister didn't even show this House the courtesy of making a statement about a decision that will result in massive layoffs at the Art Gallery of Ontario and TVOntario.

Not only is this minister a coward; she is also a failure because she has not met her stated objectives of preserving outreach and access. The Art Gallery of Ontario, for instance, says it will have to cut outreach and education programs. The minister has responded by creating a task force which, as a Toronto Star editorial says, looks like an attempt to take over the gallery's independent board and destroy its arm's-length relationship with the government.

The minister has also caused major problems for her transfer partners by forcing them to go through two months of this fiscal year before receiving their funds. Ontario libraries have yet to receive their grants. Is this because the NDP government is using the interest on these funds to help keep the deficit in check?

Libraries, like other agencies, are worried that they will face major service cuts and layoffs. The chair of one library board has told me that his board will have to close branch libraries if it does not receive at least the amount of last year's grant.

I suggest that this minister take a cue from the Wizard of Oz. She should resign and go on a quest for courage, a brain and a heart.

1340

ANDREW DESLAURIERS

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): I rise today to pay tribute to North York fire captain Andrew Deslauriers, who died last week from injuries he received while fighting an office fire. Captain Deslauriers was a 25-year veteran of the North York Fire Department. He will be missed

by his family and by his many friends in the North York Fire Department.

I'm sure I speak for all members of this House when I offer our deepest sympathy to his family. The tragic circumstances of Captain Deslauriers's death remind us all of the debt we owe to firefighters. I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all the heroic men and women who daily risk their lives in order to protect us.

LEGAL FEES

Mr Dalton McGuinty (Ottawa South): Something very unusual, something without precedent in the history of this province, has taken place today in Ontario. Effective today, the government will begin collecting an additional \$76 million in taxes through the justice system.

If you intend to seek justice in Ontario courts, as of today, your fees relating to civil matters have gone up by 70%—this notwithstanding that this government has committed to ensuring that all Ontarians have equal access to justice, even the middle class.

If you intend to buy a home in Ontario, as of today, your costs to obtain title information from your registry office have gone up by \$200 to \$300—this notwithstanding that this government is committed to doing everything it can to spur on housing starts and to ensure that first-time home buyers get the breaks they need to make that first big purchase.

If you intend to die in Ontario, as of today, if your Ontario estate is worth more than \$50,000, you are categorized as wealthy and you will have to pay the equivalent of a hefty surtax which is triple the fee charged for those dying with an estate worth less than \$50,000—this notwithstanding that this government is committed to consulting the public about a death tax before implementing any such tax.

What is precedent-setting about this new \$76-million tax grab is that not one word of debate was permitted before its implementation. This government, by edict of regulation, has decided to raise the costs of doing business with our courts by \$76 million. Taxation without debate is taxation without representation, and this will not be lost on the good people of Ontario.

TRANSPORTATION

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): National Transportation Week 1992 is celebrated in all regions of Canada June 7 to 13. It is used to honour the heroes and achievers in transportation, to recognize the contribution of this industry to economic and social development and to help talented young people take up careers in the transportation industry.

Safe and efficient transportation systems enhance the quality of life for all citizens and promote economic prosperity and social development. Ontario needs a well-maintained, integrated transportation system that is safe, dependable, effective, efficient and environmentally sound.

People who live and work in the greater Toronto area realize that much of our infrastructure is currently operating at or above capacity. According to the Ontario Ministry of

Transportation, congestion on our roads added an extra \$2 billion in 1988 to the cost of business in the GTA, a figure which has increased since then.

Renewing our commitment to transportation infrastructure is only effective when it is accompanied by a plan of action. The expertise of government, business and residents must be brought together to ensure the continued success of growth in Ontario. I call on the government to bring forward a strategy and a timetable for the provision of an efficient and competitive network of transit and roads.

EDWARD JOHNSON ARCHIVE COLLECTION

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): The archive collection of world-famous tenor Edward Johnson has returned to his birthplace in Guelph. The University of Guelph library will house some 70 boxes of cultural history that make up this collection. It includes diaries, letters, recordings and photographs of some of Johnson's famous friends, including Toscanini and Puccini. The collection was donated by Johnson's grandchildren.

Edward Johnson starred in Europe and at the New York Metropolitan Opera. He returned to Guelph in 1950 and lived there until his death nine years later. His name carries on in the Guelph artistic community through the Edward Johnson Music Foundation, which launched the Guelph Spring Festival. This spring the festival marked 25 years of enriching the artistic fabric of Guelph. The Edward Johnson Music Foundation also runs a program which shares some of the world's finest musicians and singers, including Canadian artists, with the community.

The Guelph Spring Festival is one of many community groups that has been working since 1984 to bring a civic centre to Guelph. This broadly based project will have a tremendously positive effect on Guelph and area. The centre was passed by three successive city councils and over \$2.4 million has been raised in private donations. The centre will also become the jewel in Guelph's green necklace—22 kilometres of river walk along the Speed River, stretching from the west end of town to Guelph Lake.

At a time when we are concentrating on rebuilding this economy, we must remember the arts are important because they reflect and celebrate our humanity and rebuild our spirit.

The Edward Johnson archive joins other world-known collections at the University of Guelph, including the Bernard Shaw collection and the Lucy Maud Montgomery collection.

VISITORS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I invite all members to welcome to our gallery this afternoon, seated in the members' gallery west, a former member for Lambton, Mr David Smith. Welcome.

This is indeed a very special moment for your Speaker as I introduce to you this afternoon a very distinguished visitor seated in the gallery, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, the Honourable John Fraser. Welcome.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I think you should be aware and everybody

should be aware that the executive of the York Mills Progressive Conservative Association is seated in the members' gallery west.

ANNUAL REPORT, OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the annual report of the Ombudsman for the period April 1, 1991, to March 31, 1992.

Also, I would invite all members to welcome to our midst this afternoon the officer of the House whose report we have just tabled, Ms Roberta Jamieson, the Ombudsman of Ontario. Welcome.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Mr Speaker, I would like to table some privileges of mine that have been breached by this government in the disclosure of information and the way it was done last week, through the Ministry of the Environment and the Interim Waste Authority, when they announced the candidate sites. I was told the day before that I would receive them first thing on Thursday morning. I have to point out that that did not happen. As the Environment critic I did not receive them until later that day. I also have to point out that the county of Simcoe, the town of Markham and various other communities that are impacted by these decisions did not receive this information until much after the fact.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I fully realize the member's interest in this matter. I must regrettably inform the member that while he has not lost a privilege, indeed he speaks of something that could be described as a courtesy, which apparently was not extended to him on this particular occasion. By bringing it to my attention, I'm sure he has alerted the Minister of the Environment. Perhaps that matter can be attended to outside the chamber, but I do appreciate your bringing it to my attention.

Mr Cousens: If I can just comment further on your response—and I appreciate very much your response on it—the minister did not even make a statement in the House on Thursday on this matter, yet it was the issue of the day to people concerned with the environment. Is there nothing I can do as a member of this House to at least convince, coerce or coax this minister to do what she should do so well?

The Speaker: You will recall on earlier occasions that I indeed expressed, as speakers prior to my office have expressed, that it is most desirable that ministers make pronouncements of new policy here in the House rather than outside the Legislature. There is nothing in the standing orders which compels that to occur. Again, the member has registered his concern and it is one which I fully understand.

1350

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: This is a little different from the previous point of order in that, even though it annoys the

opposition, I understand what you are saying when you say that if a minister does not make an announcement in the House that's the government's prerogative and we simply complain.

However, there is a situation that has arisen today which I think is of particular interest to the Speaker of the House and all members of the House, and that is when we have the government House leader announcing by newspaper report that there are going to be major and drastic changes made to limit the role and responsibilities of members of the opposition, indeed all members of the House.

The reason I say this is different—and I don't rise very often on the other matters—is because every person in this House is affected by these substantial changes. If I were to be partisan, I would say they demonstrate that the Premier and his government are neither new nor democratic. I am very concerned that we have changes that will affect you in your role as Speaker, that will affect people at the table who give advice and that will certainly affect the House leaders and all members of the House by limiting their opportunity to speak in this House, by limiting the amount of time this House actually sits and by making other drastic—I know you want me to be reasonably brief, and I will be—and unprecedented changes in the rules of this House which are going to have a marked effect on the mood in this House, if nothing else, but certainly on the operation of this House.

All of us recognize that the role of the opposition and of government backbenchers and others in the government is to debate in a thorough manner the legislation that comes before this House, with the opportunity to delay until such time as the public is aware of the consequences and to put forward every possible argument. We have, instead, something not even announced to the opposition at all but snuck in on a Thursday afternoon by the government House leader. We're faced with the situation today where he says these new rules are going to be debated today and every possible day after that until they're passed. Mr Speaker, that does not demonstrate to me any respect for this House, and I ask for your intervention.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): On the same point of order, the House leader for the third party.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: I just want to express my concern as to the way the government and the government House leader are proceeding. There will be plenty of opportunity, I presume, with the current attitude of the government, to read into the record many speeches by the current-day Premier, the former Leader of the Opposition, and by the current-day government House leader, where they referred to, Mr Speaker—I am not using this term but I'm sure they have—Gestapo tactics of majority governments of years gone by of whatever political stripe.

I just want to impress upon the Legislature and the people of Ontario that what we see today is an abandonment of parliamentary democracy as we have known it in Ontario for the last 125 years and that now we're going to have government by imperial edict. There's a reason why this Legislature has performed as well and as coopera-

tively as it has for 125 years with the rules it has. The Premier may laugh if he wants to at that suggestion, but I can tell him that before he was in this place there were House leaders like Elie Martel, Bob Nixon and Tom Wells who understood what compromise and negotiation and the art of parliamentary democracy were.

Today we see that this government, which supposedly has championed the cause of democratic principles—until it assumed power, that is—now believes that it should be able to govern by a stroke of the pen and by imperial edict. If that is the government's intention, as opposed to negotiating and observing rule changes and creating constructive rule changes—I note there's nothing in here that improves how the committee system works, which the government House leader has often said needs to be improved upon. There's nothing in here that gives more independence and power to individual members. I'm sure the member for Welland-Thorold would be very interested to know that his debate time will now be limited to 30 minutes.

There's nothing in here that addresses any of those aspects of parliamentary reform. The only things in here are draconian measures so that the government can use its jackboots to walk over the Ontario citizens' and the people's rights and principles.

The Speaker: To the member for St Catharines and the member for Parry Sound: A couple of points may assist the members.

Of course I am aware that on the Orders and Notices paper today is printed a government resolution which sets out some proposed real changes. The member for St Catharines asked for the Speaker's intervention. The member will know that the Speaker cannot, first of all, deal with hypothetical situations. There is something on the order paper that needs to be called forward before there will be a debate. At the end of a full and complete debate, then normally the question is put and there is a vote in the House. It would not be proper for the Speaker to try to interfere in any way with the procedure which has been set out for some time on the way in which we do our business.

I will say, however, to the member's concern, because I recognize, as the member stated, that he rarely is on his feet with respect to procedural matters in the House unless it is a matter of deep concern to him, that the preference of speakers always is to have things dealt with in a very orderly and timely way. The legislatures that function best are those that function without surprises. I certainly understand that and concur, but the member is asking the Speaker to do something which in his capacity he is not able to do in order to assist the member.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I would like to inform members today of some important steps which my ministry is taking to address issues of anti-racism and ethnocultural equity in our province's school system.

Over the past several months I've been meeting with educators and representatives of diverse racial and ethnocultural communities who are concerned about racism

in Ontario's educational system. In this regard I'd like to first thank my colleague Zanana Akande, the Premier's parliamentary assistant, for her participation and for her advice to me. This assistance, of course, has been in addition to her efforts at creating 5,000 new summer jobs, focusing on employment and training needs of primarily black youth.

As members know, the Premier and the member for St Andrew-St Patrick announced Friday an additional \$20 million to create a total of 8,500 new summer jobs through Jobs Ontario Youth.

The key issue that has been identified in my discussions and must be addressed is that of systemic barriers in the education system which prevent racial minority students from reaching their full potential. Clearly our education system can and must change to ensure that our schools foster equality for all of our youth. They must change so that racial and cultural diversity are appreciated, respected and are integral to the system and its institutions. I am therefore pleased to inform members of a number of measures that my ministry is taking in cooperation with our education partners and communities to address issues of anti-racism and ethnocultural equity in Ontario's school system.

As members would know, two weeks ago I introduced Bill 21 for first reading. Amendments in this bill are in keeping with the government's policy with respect to anti-racism, native education and employment equity. This legislation will require all school boards to develop and submit for ministry approval policies on anti-racism and ethnocultural equity as well as employment equity, and I look forward to the collaboration of all parties and members in the House towards speedy passage of this legislation.

I'm also pleased to inform members that I'm establishing a new assistant deputy minister position within the Ministry of Education responsible for anti-racism and ethnocultural equity. As an assistant deputy minister, this senior ministry staff person will provide leadership in the ministry to ensure the development and implementation of a truly anti-racist curriculum throughout Ontario schools; the development, implementation and monitoring of school boards and ministry corporate policies on anti-racism, ethnocultural equity and employment equity, and effective in-house ministry training for anti-racism and ethnocultural equity. A number of key ministry staff will carry out their work under the direction of the new assistant deputy minister.

In addition to ministry staff I'm inviting the participation of our education and community partners. I will be asking for assistance from school boards, teacher federations and community groups through assignments to my ministry to work with us so that the solutions reached are truly shared by all the partners in education.

The new assistant deputy minister and I will continue to seek advice from representatives of the concerned community groups such as Concerned Black Educators and AMENO, the Anti-Racist Multicultural Educators' Network of Ontario, and I'm happy to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of representatives from these two organizations. We will also expand our discussions to in-

clude greater representation from communities concerned about issues of language and culture. This consultation will be ongoing until we have in place the structural changes needed to address systemic issues of racism and to ensure the implementation of ministry policies and activities which address the issues.

Our efforts will only be successful with the active participation of all people who face the systemic barriers that stigmatize race, language, culture and ethnicity. We will take the necessary steps with our partners to ensure that Ontario's education system is responsive to the needs of a multicultural and multiracial province and encourages the participation of all citizens equally.

In doing so, everyone in Ontario benefits. Our end goal is student achievement. We must see dropout rates decrease and more of our students leaving the system literate and with a fuller appreciation and respect for their own cultures and those of all their classmates.

My ministry and this government are serious about dealing with these issues. The initiatives I am announcing today are part of a series of important steps which our government is taking to deal effectively with racism in Ontario.

Finally, as part of this ongoing effort, we obviously look forward to the report of Stephen Lewis tomorrow and his recommendations for improving the environment for race relations throughout Ontario.

1400

RESPONSES

EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): I am very pleased with the announcement today. I do hope this is a long, long-term commitment. I hope it is also a financial commitment. I hope the consultation mentioned in this document includes students; I didn't hear students mentioned in this document. I hope it will include parents. I know it will include educators, because they have been mentioned, and community leaders.

I am very pleased that this government has appointed an assistant deputy minister, because an ADM in any ministry in this government provides a new level of accountability. It includes a new budget line, and I think that's very important in this matter.

A new leader in an area such as this provides sustained leadership, and for that I am grateful. I am grateful, and speak, I hope, on behalf of the school boards of Ontario, because many boards in this province have been dealing with this issue for 15 years. This is not a new issue to many boards. It hasn't just been discovered by this government.

Many boards in this province began, as I say, 15 years ago, and certainly a lot of boards began five years ago under the previous government, when we developed anti-racism policies. It has been on the ministry's agenda for a long, long time and will be for a long, long time. Many boards have excellent policies and staff trained in these areas and I'm very pleased that you mentioned that you are going to bring them forward in the form of secondments to this ministry.

You mentioned two areas, Mr Minister. You said that curriculum must be worked on and must become more sensitive. I hope, and I didn't hear it in the document but I'm sure you meant to say it, that this curriculum will give minority students in this province a pride in their heritage. That is something they've been looking for; in fact, they have come to this Legislature mentioning that. We must get more reliable knowledge bases in the curriculum of this province. Let's hope your initiative today will do that.

Professional development strategies are also going to be a high item in this agenda. I didn't hear mentioned, but I know again that you must be including secretaries and caretakers and bus drivers as well as superintendents and educators.

You didn't mention professional personnel policies, Mr Minister, but again I know you want time lines, I know you want a mechanism for appeals, and I know you want to develop strategies for recruiting minority people into positions of responsibility.

One other area I would like to mention is the assessment and placement of minority students, students who come from different backgrounds. I hope and trust that parents will be involved in these assessments and that the original assessments that are made in schools across this province will be in every case possible made in the language of that student, and that the assessment of the student will be delayed, if necessary, until a suitable adjustment period has passed.

I hope the ADM will be working with guidance departments across this province, because it is in guidance departments that the hopes and dreams of students are often formed and sometimes, unfortunately, also curtailed. They must be taught to inspire all students to reach their full potential.

I hope the ADM will also be responsible for research in this anti-racism area, research and regular reviews, because, as we all know having lived through this year of 1992, things can change. Things can change very quickly, whether they be instigated by social or economic policies, or both.

So, Mr Minister, I know your intent is, as is mine and our party's, that all students will reach their full potential and that racial minority groups will take leadership roles, from the very first days of student council right through the whole program of the educational system. All school boards in this province must be given every single support they can to respond to the needs within their own community, whether that be in-school activity or extracurricular activity. This must be a commitment of your government for its entire life and for every government that follows in this province.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Mr Speaker, I'm going to begin my response by making a statement, using some of the words of the minister himself in his announcement today; that is, his concern about "systemic barriers in the education system" that in my view prevent not only racial minority students from reaching their full potential but prevent many students across this province, whether they be special education students, or students who want to be trained to get a job, whether they

be students in southwestern Ontario, eastern Ontario, central Ontario—not just in the city of Toronto but right across this province—who are looking for leadership from your government and from you, Mr Minister, to provide the kind of programs that will get them jobs.

We're not going to solve the problems we have in our cities and we're not going to solve the problems of young people getting jobs and enjoying school and staying in school with summer jobs only. These summer jobs, especially for the racial-minority students, should be part of their education program for a period of at least three or four years. We should have a goal at the end of it. Their training in the summer should be their summer jobs. We've known this for a decade and we've done nothing about it. I hope this announcement today isn't just another piece of paper, where no one's going to do anything about it and follow through.

Mr Speaker, I want you also to know that I object to the way the minister has gone about making this announcement today. The statement on Bill 21 was introduced May 26 during orders of the day; we had no chance to respond. The Jobs Ontario Youth was announced last Friday, June 5, when many of us were caught off guard and didn't really know what the minister had in mind when he made that presentation; I was making a speech at the moment. I think these kinds of announcements are important enough to make in the House to the elected representatives before they're made in public; it helps us a lot.

I should also say that I hope this new ADM, who I think is needed because I think these jobs have to get done, is not a new additional ADM in the Ministry of Education; it's not needed. In these times when we are all taking a look at putting our money in the front lines, we don't need more administrators. We need someone to do this job, but not a new ADM.

I should also say that as we take a look at groups such as the Concerned Black Educators, with whom I have met and for whom I have a lot of empathy because they are so frustrated in getting anything done, and the Anti-Racist Multicultural Educators' Network of Ontario, who are equally frustrated, I think if they had a chance to stand in my place today and make the statements I'm making, they would say that what we need are long-term changes in the delivery of education in this province.

The reason we have so many young people out there hanging out in shopping malls, causing difficulties at the island, is because they want to be in school, they want jobs, and they want this government to make education for young people a priority.

I challenge the minister with his program. I hope it will be successful. We certainly will do everything we can to help. I would point out that not one new piece of curriculum has been developed for anti-racism and ethnocultural policy, yet Bill 21 will be debated and passed by this government, hopefully before the summer. This bill was introduced for the first time under the auspices of Bill 125 a year ago; and now we are talking about developing curriculum a year later.

I say to the minister right now that I hope his process will change, that I hope our young people will benefit from this program, and I hope it's not just another piece of paper.

1410

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This government has failed young people. They've cut back on the ranger program by 37%, they've cut down on tree planting up north, they've cut down on summer experience programs. They forgot about it in their big budget. It was in their Agenda for People. This government has not got an agenda for young people. To say you've got a program now for black young people is good, but what about all the rest of them all over the province? What about the ones in Windsor, northern Ontario, eastern Ontario, everywhere?

You're out of it. You don't understand what's happening and you're not going to solve the problem if you think you can do something just for seven or eight weeks or a short time during the summer. There is the fall, there is a time afterwards. You've got business so discouraged they're not generating jobs. You've got labour reform. So where's the private investment coming in to say, "Let's generate some confidence in the province of Ontario"? This government is destroying that confidence. There isn't confidence in the government. Why not work with private enterprise so that everybody can work together to generate jobs rather than turn jobs away, which is what you're doing with your other government policies?

LEGAL AID

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: It arises out of a question asked by the honourable member for Eglinton of the minister responsible for women's issues last week on June 2, in which the minister indicated that she could not comment on a rumour that the legal aid plan was being amended so as to prevent married women and children who are in family court from selecting their own lawyers. The minister said that as the announcement had not been made she could not and would not comment on it because it is speculative.

I understand, Mr Speaker, your ruling, made many times, as recently as today, that you can only encourage ministers to make their announcements in the House. We have a special opportunity today, however, in respect of this point, because the Attorney General is going to make that announcement tomorrow in Ottawa, and I would ask him and the Premier, who is present, to listen to your exhortation, which I expect will be forthcoming very shortly, to make announcements like that in the elected assembly of Ontario, where we can comment on them as well as others.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for St George-St David, I appreciate the fact that he has listened carefully to previous rulings, and indeed I suspect that every member in the assembly is well aware of the rulings which have been made from this Chair, and no doubt they will do their best to keep that in mind as government policy comes forward.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I believe my privileges as a member have been breached. Last Thursday, the Interim Waste Authority released its long list of candidate sites for the landfill site search in the Metropolitan Toronto-York region. One of those potential sites, M6, is located on land which is part of the Rouge River and Petticoat Creek watersheds and which is recommended for inclusion in phase 3 of the Rouge Valley park.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that on November 20, 1989, all parties in this House unanimously passed the Progressive Conservative opposition day resolution in my name which called on the provincial government to designate the Rouge Valley system as a provincial park.

More recently, this government's own terms of reference for the Rouge Valley park project directed an advisory committee to prepare a strategy and time frame for preparing a parkland for the area north of Steeles Avenue. In response, the advisory committee recommends in the preliminary park management plan that the park include the valley and stream corridors extended to their headwaters and all the publicly owned lands within the Rouge River and Petticoat Creek watersheds which were acquired for the north Pickering and federal airport project. According to this management plan, the implementation of phase 3 of the park for lands north of Steeles Avenue is of vital importance to the integrity—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member indicate succinctly which privilege she believes has been lost?

Mrs Marland: Because this land is important to the integrity of the entire Rouge system and because this means that the provincial government must not even consider locating a landfill in M6—

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat, please. To the member for Mississauga South, I certainly appreciate very much the subject material she has brought to the House's attention. There is no particular privilege which has been lost here. However, she does I think have material that might be the focus of a question during question period, and that portion of the program we're about to begin. It is time for oral questions and the Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. Last week the Premier indicated in this House, if I can quote him almost directly, that Ontario had gone through the recession. On Friday the unemployment figures came out, and those statistics showed that in Ontario the unemployment rate had risen to 10.9%, the highest rate now in nine years. Communities such as Thunder Bay, Windsor, St Catharines and Ottawa saw their jobless rates jump substantially in May, just at the same time when the Premier said there are signs the economy is picking up in Ontario.

I would ask the Premier how he can reconcile the bad news this province received on Friday with the statement he made on Thursday that we had begun our recovery, that we had come through the recession.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): What the figures showed for Ontario were similar to what they showed for the United States and for Canada, that is, at the same time as the rate of unemployment has increased in Ontario and as it has increased across the country and increased in the United States, the number of people who are employed has also gone up. It has gone up quite substantially. I would say to the member that what we are told this means is that there are more people who are returning to the labour force to look for work and that this in itself is a sign that some recovery is taking place.

I'm not denying that the recession has been very tough. I'm not denying that it's had a serious impact on the province. I'm not denying that a combination of things have been tough over the last two or three years. What I am saying is that there are some signs of increased employment. They are contained in the statistics that were revealed last week by Statistics Canada, which show that employment in the province last year was up by 20,000, a fact which I would have thought the honourable member would be applauding today.

Mrs McLeod: The reality is there were more people in Ontario in unemployment lineups looking for jobs that don't exist at the end of the month of May then there were even in the month of April.

In the government's budget, the Treasurer indicated it would be our housing industry that would lead our economic recovery. We see today that in that very industry there are reported 7,000 fewer home starts last month than in the month of April. There are 109,000 fewer people employed in this industry than when this government first came to power. It is the increase in housing starts which is the traditional sign that a recession is beginning to turn around, that economic recovery is at hand. Given these statistics, we would have to say the economic recovery is not at hand.

I wonder what the Premier would have to say to Aldo Pinero, who is an unemployed carpenter with a family of three who's been out of work for five months, or what he might say to Paul Michelin, who's an unemployed mason with a wife and two children. I wonder if the Premier can tell these construction workers and others like them what part of his industrial strategy, whether it's the Labour Relations Act amendments or the worker ownership plan or the investment fund or the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, is going to put these people back to work.

Hon Mr Rae: What I would say to the people you have mentioned, what I would say to the people across the province, what I would say to all of them, is that, first of all, with respect to the housing industry in particular, the last budget contained information about the government's commitment to non-profit and cooperative housing which clearly demonstrated—and if you talk to people in the housing industry they will say: "Yes, times are tough and

they've been difficult. If it wasn't for the investment the provincial government has put into plans, unemployment would be even more severe than it already is."

The Jobs Ontario homes fund will expand our support for non-profit housing programs by 20,000 units, creating 2,400 jobs and generating \$2.1 billion in capital activity in the construction industry.

The fact remains that the measures the member has described, as well as other measures, we do believe are contributing and will contribute to recovery in the housing industry, as in other industries in the province.

1420

Mrs McLeod: This government over and over again talks about its hopes, its beliefs, its wishes and its prayers. The reality is that there were 7,000 fewer home starts in May than in April. I come back to the government's economic strategy, its plans for renewal and its hopes to be able to turn this reality around.

They promised the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board in the spring session of the Legislature; we haven't seen it yet. They promised the worker ownership bill; it's tied up in committee with the Ontario Federation of Labour itself opposing it. They promised, as part of their industrial strategy, an investment fund which is being opposed by the very pension fund holders who are supposed to contribute voluntarily to the fund.

The industry minister makes a statement about an industrial strategy and says he can't implement it until the economy picks up. The government's budget is committed to creating 125,000 new jobs this year. We are two months into the year already and we are still in a situation in which there are some 64,000 fewer jobs in this province than there were a year ago.

I would ask the Premier if he could tell this House whether he still believes the Treasurer's job creation forecast of two months ago, and what part of his proposals are going to create all of these jobs.

Hon Mr Rae: I find it ironic, because the Liberal Party has taken now to becoming the party of gloom and doom.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Mel Swart was right. You haven't got the guts to be a good NDP Premier.

Hon Mr Rae: If the member for Renfrew North would just control himself—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the Premier take his seat, please.

Mr Conway: —what everybody else stands for. What else does Bob Rae stand for, you gutless wonder.

The Speaker: The member for Renfrew North—

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): Now don't make a ruling about "gutless wonder." You'll leave us with nothing.

The Speaker: I ask the member for St George-St David to come to order. The member for Renfrew North, I know the respect which he has for the assembly and for Parliament and I know that he would not want language to be used which would cause disorder.

Mr Conway: On that point, Mr Speaker, I can assure you I appreciate what you've said. I will not be calling people liars in this place. But my concern is that while I am prepared to take lectures from a lot of people, I'm not prepared to take a lecture about consistency in politics from a man like the leader of this government who on key questions like integrity in government, like public auto insurance, like gaming and casinos—

The Speaker: Would the member for Renfrew North take his seat, please.

Mr Conway: No wonder that Mel Swart —

The Speaker: I ask the member for Renfrew North to take his seat, please. Premier?

Interjections.

The Speaker: New question.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Minister of Labour. When the Minister of Labour introduced his amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act in this House last Thursday he stated that there's absolutely no evidence whatsoever that this legislation is going to kill jobs. Again that falls into the category of wish and prayer more than a willingness to look at the evidence. Since the minister made his announcement, the auto parts company Hayes-Dana has indicated that it has cancelled plans for an \$8.3-million steel casing expansion because of the uncertainty created by the labour act amendments. These jobs will go elsewhere because investors see Ontario as a poor place to do business.

I would ask the minister if this does not in his mind constitute clear evidence that this legislation, coming in the midst of a harsh recession, will in fact discourage investment and ultimately kill jobs in Ontario?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): The answer to that is no. I think this legislation, if we can start changing around the confrontational approach to one of cooperation in the province, is a very positive move.

Mrs McLeod: In the absence of any evidence that the legislation can create jobs, and when there is evidence that it will cut down on and kill jobs, I don't know how the minister simply can keep denying the evidence that is building. Again the minister and his government have done no studies of their own to indicate whether this legislation will kill jobs. The only study this minister or the Premier has referenced, as we have asked for some understanding of the impact of this legislation, is one that was conducted by Noah Meltz of the University of Toronto.

The minister says that the Meltz study indicates that the amendments could be positive, that they could lead to lead to more productivity. Hardly strong words and, I suggest, more of a wish and a prayer than anything else. I have a copy of the Meltz report. It is exactly four pages long. This report suggests that it is difficult to assess the impact of the proposed reforms and that to do so would require a detailed examination which he has not undertaken in this paper.

I ask the minister if he does not feel that this issue is serious enough to merit the kind of detailed examination

and study that his own consultant has called for. How could he possibly base this initiative on a four-page paper which in itself calls for more examination?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I think the Leader of the Opposition conveniently forgets that we've had probably the most extensive consultation on this issue that we've had on any legislation in Ontario. I think if she read the Meltz report, it would also say that consultation and a change in the attitudes with which we deal with labour relations in Ontario could very well lead to improved productivity in this province.

Mrs McLeod: I'm really not trying to conveniently forget anything. I am trying to raise real concerns that we hear being raised out in the communities. Surely the minister can't simply shrug off the fact that there are many sectors of our economy that fear this legislation is going to destroy jobs and will permanently harm Ontario's competitiveness and productivity. We're not trying to be simply obstructionist. We recognize the fact that on Friday the Premier announced the appointment of a labour-management advisory committee that he has mandated to look at the ways in which management and labour can work together, presumably in the context of the proposals the government's bringing forward. We ask that the government undertake this as a very serious and constructive approach to resolving the concerns we believe exist about the legislation.

I ask the minister whether he will do what he did for the agricultural sector and refer his proposed Labour Relations Act amendments to this advisory committee before second reading of the bill, so that a thorough examination can be carried out by this joint committee of the impact of these proposals, and if he will go a step further and suggest that this advisory committee set up sectoral subcommittees to look at the impact of the proposals on each of the different sectors, whether it is tourism, retail, manufacturing, agriculture or the construction industry.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I have real difficulty in understanding why the leader of the official opposition doesn't understand that legislation far beyond anything we've brought into the province of Ontario doesn't seem to be hurting the economic realities in most of Europe. I also can't understand why she doesn't realize that it's about time that instead of putting down workers in Ontario, as she does every time she raises one of these questions, we started involving them in the decisions that are made that affect them and their future in Ontario.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Third party. New question, the leader of the third party. The leader of the third party has the floor.

1430

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Premier. Premier, last Thursday my caucus colleagues and I introduced 20 pieces of legislation in response to your labour bill. In those pieces of legislation we are calling for an impact study or an inquiry into the effects of your labour legislation changes on jobs, investment and competitiveness in the 20 regions of this province.

Premier, since your Minister of Labour has refused to do any impact studies, or at least to table them with the House if he's done them, will you tell us how many jobs will be threatened, lost or perhaps even created if you think there'll be any created? Will you agree to undertake the inquiries we called for in the 20 regions of this province last Thursday?

Hon Mr Rae: I just don't think you can take one piece of legislation out of context. You have to look at the overall approach which the government has taken with respect to the reduction of the corporation taxes on investment; the way in which, for example, on manufacturing processing we've taken action together with the federal government; the way in which we've worked with the private sector in solving a number of individual problems; the fact that financial support from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology to businesses to create new jobs this year is 96% higher than in the last year of the former government, 96% higher in terms of the kind of actions we've taken in the middle of this recession.

As I said on Friday, we are looking forward very much to a very constructive dialogue with the members of the labour and management communities in looking at improving the overall climate, including, obviously, this particular legislation, but a number of other factors need to be taken into account as well. I would say to the honourable member that we are looking forward to a balanced debate in the House, we are looking forward to a consideration by the committee and a study by a number of people of what is being proposed, and then to a conclusion of the debate in the fall, which I think is, after all the consultation has taken place, a perfectly reasonable line of direction coming from the government at this time.

Mr Harris: I am not debating today the time frame or the government's right, of course, to deal with legislation, but the 20 regional bills we introduced call for an inquiry into the effect of this piece of legislation. You don't want to isolate it. If you don't want to isolate it, why deal with it?

We are dealing with this particular bill, and what we are interested in knowing, and I think all members would want to know, particularly the backbench members of your party, who have been given a new-found freedom to vote their conscience on these issues instead of how they're told—I think they'd want to know what will be the impact of this legislation on workers. The bill calls for that for all workers, including specifically women, racial minorities, persons with disabilities, native peoples, youth and older workers. My caucus believes very strongly—and I believe the business community believes, everybody you spoke to in Japan believes—that your labour legislation proposals are a payback to the union bosses and will destroy investment, will cost jobs and will close factories. Do you have any evidence to the contrary?

Hon Mr Rae: I think there is very substantial evidence to the contrary. In fact, I was interested to read an editorial in the Montreal Gazette on Saturday indicating that it's hard to understand the kind of rhetoric which this legislation has produced in Ontario, given that it's been in

place in the province of Quebec for 14 years and given that there are some features of our bill which are less restrictive than the legislation in Quebec.

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Editorial in the newspaper. Real good. It came out after your legislation.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I would say to the honourable member that the committee will have a chance to call witnesses and to call people who have expert testimony to provide. The committee will have the opportunity to do precisely the kind of study the member is referring to. If it's a study he wants, then I would ask what better place for a study to be overseen than within the committee that will be dealing with the legislation?

Mr Harris: On Friday, as we've already heard from the leader of the Liberal Party, Hayes-Dana announced that it is putting the brakes on an \$8-million expansion in St Marys. The reason is your labour legislation. We have heard from a number of investors and potential investors and employers from around the world that they are reconsidering creating jobs in Ontario because of your legislation.

I would ask you this, Premier: Can you tell the 2,000 employees at Hayes-Dana and the thousands more who depend upon the facility and the new ones who may have been hired why you are proceeding with this legislation and taking away their jobs? Also, can you explain to every member of this Legislature, in government and in opposition, why you refuse to do any impact studies of this legislation on jobs, existing and potential, in this province? Can you explain that?

Hon Mr Rae: I say to the honourable member again that if he would look at a balanced approach and look at the decisions that have been made by Chrysler, look at the decisions that have been by Ford, look at the decisions that have been by a number of major companies, they clearly point to a continuing confidence in the workforce in this province. I'm convinced that a reasonable, balanced dialogue with the business community and with everyone out there will reinforce the sense that Ontario is a good place to do business and that we have everything to gain by improving the climate of labour-management relations in this province—everything to gain from that.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Harris: Mr Premier, we all agree that if we could improve the climate, things would be better. Everybody I talk to says your legislation's way of proceeding is destroying the climate, not improving the climate. When you understand that, then we'll get the kind of consultation we need.

The Speaker: Is this your second question?

Mr Harris: My second question, Mr Speaker, is to the Premier as well.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Mr Premier, your government House leader has served notice that no legislation will go forward in this House until he passes rule changes. We're not opposed to discussing rule changes in

this House or outside of this House or in any forum in which you'd like to do it. But I find it a sad excuse for governing, when unemployment in this province is at its highest level in nine years. I wonder if the Premier would tell me this: How many jobs will be created in the province as a result of this urgent and important discussion on rule changes?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I'll refer all questions involving the rule changes to the government House leader.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I would like you to rule on whether in fact the government House leader is entitled to answer this question. If I'm not mistaken, Mr Speaker, you have ruled on a previous occasion that the government whip could not be asked a question in her capacity as whip but could only be asked a question that related to her portfolio. She was not permitted to answer the question, in accordance with your ruling. I would submit to you, Mr Speaker, with all respect, that the other portfolio the government House leader has as Minister of Municipal Affairs has nothing to do with the rules of the Legislature, and therefore he cannot answer the question, on the same logic you used on a previous occasion.

The Speaker: I understand the member's point. He will recall that on an earlier occasion the question had been directed directly to a minister without portfolio. In this instance the question was referred to a member of the cabinet by the Premier, and in that capacity the member is allowed to respond.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Allow the member to respond. The government House leader.

Interjections.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, if I might be given the opportunity to answer the question.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, ever since the Premier asked me to serve as government House leader, I have had many opportunities to engage in discussions with the House leaders from the opposition parties to talk about the need for changes in this place. If ever there was an example of why there needs to be changes, we can see it happening this afternoon.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

1440

Hon Mr Cooke: I think what the people of this province want the Legislature to do is deal with the public business that is before it. It's been clear in the last several months that this government has not been allowed to proceed with the government agenda. That has been absolutely clear.

The statistics are clear. When the Liberals were in power they were allowed to pass about 31 pieces of legislation per sitting, the Conservatives about 32 pieces per sitting. We've been allowed 12 to 14 pieces. The opposition parties have to understand. We respect the ability of the opposition parties to oppose; that's their job. But I don't think the opposition parties have demonstrated very clearly that we also have a responsibility to the people of this province to govern.

How many jobs are going to be created? I guess I could ask the leader of the third party how many jobs were created last Thursday when we listened to private member's bill after private member's bill as a tactic to have nothing done in this place.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): This morning you, Mr House Leader, said in a statement, "We simply don't have time to play these games while the public awaits job-creating legislation." Mr House Leader, I couldn't agree with you more. We're all waiting for legislation that will create jobs. I can name any number of proposals you've talked about dealing with, any number of bills, some requiring up to 200 amendments, any number of directions that will kill and destroy jobs in this province. Can you name one bill, what piece of legislation you're so anxious to get on with, that will create jobs in this province?

Hon Mr Cooke: I served in opposition for a long time, so I understand the role of the opposition parties—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: —but if you take a look at this place, it was just a couple of weeks ago that the budget bills from the 1991 budget were passed. The opposition wouldn't even let this government proceed—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: —with budget bills from the 1991 budget. Now, if that isn't an example of this place not working and the opposition not allowing the government to govern, then I don't know what a better example is. We've got to reform this place. We've got to make this place modern. All we're suggesting is that we bring the Ontario Legislature in line with other legislatures across the country. It's about time that's done, and this government is determined to do that.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It is incumbent for all members of this House to tell the truth, and I believe you would substantiate that. The government House leader has not mentioned a very vital point of truth, which is that this House was due to come back by the calendar on March 8, and this government delayed it till—

The Speaker: That's not a point of order. The member will know that's not a point of order. The leader of the third party with his final supplementary.

Mr Harris: Regardless of when the House comes back and when it sits, I assume that the minister not being able to name one piece of legislation is an admission that

there is none, that in fact there is nothing the government wishes to call that will create a job. That's what I infer.

I see him looking. Let me suggest to the government House leader that you do have a bill that we believe could create some jobs—that is, the Sunday shopping bill. Let me also suggest to the House leader that the only reason I can see for you wanting to limit speeches to 30 minutes for job-creating legislation is so you can shut up your own backbench members and get that bill through the House, because we could pass that bill today except that there's a filibuster by NDP members brewing to stop the one job-creating piece of legislation.

By way of final supplementary, the truth is that other than that bill that we've been pushing and calling for and we're ready to deal with and pass today, there is nothing on the books that will create jobs. I understand how desperate you all are to take the heat off your job-killing labour legislation and the fact that you have no agenda to create jobs—

The Speaker: And the question?

Mr Harris: I would really, seriously suggest to you, Mr House leader, and through you to the Premier and your cabinet: Why don't you call a real piece of legislation this afternoon that might have a chance to create some jobs instead of playing games with the rules and tying up this House for the next two weeks on that?

Hon Mr Cooke: I think the leader of the third party can make whatever arguments he wants to make. The fact of the matter is that he wants to take a look at the budget this government introduced, which had thousands of jobs created. He'll want to look at the—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order and I would ask the member for Oriole—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): That's a lie. That's not even a white one.

The Speaker: The member for Oriole needs to withdraw the comment that she just made. It's unparliamentary, and I believe she knows that.

Mrs Caplan: Mr Speaker, the House leader has clearly stated something that is not factually correct. I withdraw the word "lie" and say that he has been not factually correct.

The Speaker: The fact that a member withdraws an unparliamentary remark is all that's required, and I do appreciate the fact that the member did that. Now that order is restored, perhaps the minister could continue.

Hon Mr Cooke: I'm not going to run through all the proposals and all the programs the government has introduced. They've been reiterated—

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): He Martelled. Keep Martelling.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Willowdale.

Hon Mr Cooke: Rather than continuing to try to talk, I think the opposition parties have clearly made my case: We need rule changes in this place. The place isn't working.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt has the floor.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for Willowdale: Perhaps just prior to the issuance of a writ the member for Scarborough-Agincourt could ask a question.

1450

INCOME TAX

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier. It has to do with your credibility. You may recall, Premier, that I think a solemn commitment you made was that you would eliminate Ontario income tax for the working poor. You not only have not done that, Premier, as you know, but you've actually gone in the opposite direction. In three weeks every single person in Ontario will see his or her Ontario income tax go up more than 5%, including the working poor.

My question to you is this, Premier: What possible justification do you have for breaking this commitment and for increasing the personal Ontario income tax on the working poor by more than 5% on July 1?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Any tax changes the government has had to bring in I think are a clear response to the fiscal reality facing this province, which I'm sure the member is aware of. The prospect of a deficit that would be unacceptably high and would face all of us with a common problem in the future has led the Treasurer to make the recommendations in his budget that he has made.

Mr Phillips: I can understand the need to deal with the deficit, and I can understand the need to raise taxes in certain areas, but on this particular one I sincerely question, Premier, why you would choose to attack the working poor.

We've now seen case after case, Premier, where you've gone back on the solemn promises you made in the election campaign, whether it be the common pause day, whether it be the tax on the working poor, whether it be public auto insurance. All these things were solemn commitments made by you during the campaign.

Premier, you remember that in this building you called the previous Premier a liar for this very thing. You said he was a liar. It was the "Honest Bob" campaign. You weren't going to do that. You called him a liar. My question to you is this: You used to call these actions lying. You said that where a political party promises one thing and does something different is a lie. Premier, how would you describe your promising one thing in a campaign and doing the exact opposite now that you're in power?

Hon Mr Rae: The facts as I understand them, and I know the Treasurer would be glad to answer this question even more fully than I'm going to be able to answer it today, are as follows: Ontario's personal income tax is now the third lowest in Canada. The net impact of the measures that have been put forward by the Treasurer is that for

lower- and middle-income taxpayers—that is to say, individuals who are earning less than \$53,000—there will be no increase in the combined federal-Ontario income tax as a result of the federal and Ontario 1992 budgets.

Mr Phillips: I ask the Premier to get the facts and report back to this House before we adjourn today. That is not a fact. As a matter of fact, the Treasurer ordered the Minister of Education to send out a retraction to all his households for that particular reason. I ask the Premier to come forward with the facts before the House adjourns.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the Premier wish to respond? No?

New question, the member for Markham.

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I'm prepared to wait if the Premier wants to answer that question.

The Speaker: The member for Markham has the floor to pose a question.

Mr Cousens: No, I said I am prepared to wait.

Hon Mr Rae: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I take it that the third question being asked by the honourable member was some kind of third supplementary being allowed.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. When the House comes to order, then I can address the question.

Indeed the Chair was wrong. The member for Scarborough-Agincourt was very quick to his feet and the Chair should not have allowed what the member was posing as his second supplementary since we were into the rotation where there was simply one supplementary. The error was the Chair's, for which I apologize. We are now on to the third party, and the member for Markham has his opportunity to ask a question.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): This is a question for the Minister of the Environment.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Do you have the Hansard?

Mr Cousens: I have the Hansard. On November 2, 1988, with regard to the Rouge Valley, when you were opposition critic for the Environment you said:

"Surely, if this government really means to preserve the Rouge Valley, it must realize that such a corridor, free-way or expressway is entirely inconsistent with preserving the Rouge Valley. Why has the minister not requested Scarborough and Metro to delete the corridor from their plans? That is how one preserves the Rouge."

The question I have is, does one preserve the Rouge and other environmentally sensitive areas such as the Oak Ridges moraine, the Ganaraska and Lake Ontario by placing a landfill site near them? Simply, can you preserve environmentally sensitive areas by placing a landfill site close to them? Certainly when you said that's how one preserves the Rouge—you wouldn't put a road through it—can you say the same now with regard to landfill sites being in close proximity to the Rouge?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I suspect the member is referring to the statement made by

the member for Mississauga South earlier today, which alleged that the Interim Waste Authority had selected, as one of its potential landfill sites, land within the Rouge. I know the member, having been through the committee that dealt with Bill 143, is very familiar with the process this government has set up, a fair and open process where the Interim Waste Authority determines environmental criteria, applies them and develops a list of sites.

I just want to draw the member's attention to one of the criteria that has been selected by the Interim Waste Authority and is very clear. It says, "Screen out the portion of the Rouge River Valley where the provincial cabinet has declared a provincial intent to establish a park in the Rouge River Valley to include buffer zones." I think that's the answer to his question.

Mr Cousens: Two words sum up your response, and those are that you have become "environmentally dishonest." You proclaim that the Rouge Valley—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take his seat. Adding an adverb in front of a word that is not parliamentary does not help any. The member for Markham will know this, and I trust he'll withdraw the remark.

Mr Cousens: I withdraw "environmentally," Mr Speaker, and certainly I would—

The Speaker: I don't think I heard that one properly.

Mr Cousens: I withdraw any offence in the words, but there's something the matter with the minister's response.

Interjection.

The Speaker: I ask the member for St George-St David to come to order.

Mr Cousens: The minister proclaimed that the Rouge Valley would be protected at all costs, yet the Interim Waste Authority has different plans for the Rouge Valley. All of us who suffered through the public hearings on Bill 143 know that you are the Interim Waste Authority. You have legislated the mandate for the Interim Waste Authority and you've restricted its options to landfill sites only. You can't look outside the greater Toronto area; you can't look at incineration.

Placing the responsibility for the site selection on the Interim Waste Authority is green hypocrisy and calls into question your credibility as Minister of the Environment. The Ministry of the Environment is out of control. The Premier has said that the Rouge will be protected, yet the Interim Waste Authority says it is a possible site. You have said it is the responsibility of the Interim Waste Authority and you've referred to some of those guidelines. I ask you, Madam Minister: Who is setting the environmental agenda for the province of Ontario and can we trust it?

Hon Mrs Grier: The answer is, he can trust it absolutely. This government has dealt with what have been crisis headlines in the GTA for the last decade: "Nowhere to Put the Waste"; "Put the Waste all over the Province"; "Put it in Plympton"; "Put it in Marmora." This government has laid down key environmental policies, incorporated them into legislation and established a crown agency

to implement those policies and to take future landfill sites through an environmental assessment. That's a first, Mr Speaker, and that's something he can trust implicitly.

1500

GREATER TORONTO AREA

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): My question will be asked in a more gracious tone. It's for the minister responsible for the Office for the Greater Toronto Area. It has come to my attention that the office is using StarPhone as a vehicle to talk about some of the long-term issues affecting the greater Toronto area, of which Durham East is a part. Why is the government using StarPhone? What kind of information will be provided to my constituents of Durham East who may be interested in this service?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): The Office for the Greater Toronto Area, in cooperation with a number of other ministries and in consultation with the 35 municipalities within the greater Toronto area, has been developing a strategic plan to guide the future growth of this area, a growth that's expected to take the population from the current four million to six million over the next 25 years.

What we have done with StarPhone, which is an information service available by telephone to people within this area, is to provide messages and information about transportation, economic vitality, greenlands and sustainable communities. We're monitoring the effectiveness of the program on an ongoing basis, and we believe that use of StarPhone provides the member's constituents in Durham East and all the residents of the greater Toronto area an opportunity to get information in a timely and convenient way.

Mr Mills: I guess we're all obsessed with costs these days. What is that service going to cost the taxpayers of Ontario?

Hon Mrs Grier: I'm pleased to tell the member that it's a very cost-effective way of distributing information. The cost for 13 weeks of use of the service is \$5,350, and in the first three weeks the Office for the Greater Toronto Area made use of the service, we had over 2,000 calls. Many of those people merely wanted to listen to the recording. Many others left their names and addresses and asked for follow-up information and to be involved in the consultations that are ongoing and that are so very important about the future of the greater Toronto area, and we think it has proven to be a good way of disseminating that information.

LEGAL FEES

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): My question was for the Premier, but he's disappeared from the House so I guess I'll have to find another minister. But he's responsible for everything that happens over there. I guess I'll go to the Attorney General with this, in the absence of the Premier, who has left early.

The people who voted for the Premier's government probably didn't necessarily agree with all the policies this government had in its platform and probably didn't believe that this government could manage the economy of the

province particularly well, but they did believe that Premier Rae and others in the government would be different, that in fact they would be open and would be honest and would be upfront in their style of government. In light of that, could the Attorney General tell us why he tried to sneak in a \$76-million tax grab through the back door, a tax that, for instance, will triple the cost of probating a will, even for a modest estate by today's standards?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The member knows full well, I believe, that over the past six years the Ministry of the Attorney General under this government and the previous government looked very seriously at all court fees, and in fact over the last six years has increased a number of court fees, simply to provide the funding we find necessary to make provisions for the justice system. A number of court fees were raised this year and there were some increases in probate fees. Those increases are not out of line with other increases in court fees. Neither in this year are they out of line, nor are they out of line with increases in past years.

Mr Bradley: If this money was so important to the government of the province, one would have thought a measure of this kind would have been at least mentioned in the provincial budget.

My colleague the member for Ottawa South in his statement today raised the fact about housing costs, and in view of the fact that, with a good deal of publicity and fanfare, the Premier headed to a federal-provincial conference talking about making housing more accessible to people of modest incomes, could the minister of justice of the province, the Attorney General, tell the House why the registry offices all over the province have now increased the cost of a house by \$200 to \$300, simply by increasing the fees that the government is bringing about through the back door?

Hon Mr Hampton: I take issue with the assertion that there's a \$200 to \$300 increase. The fact is that with respect to property transfers, part of the province does work under the Registry Act but an ever-increasing part of the province works under the Land Titles Act. As I've indicated, some fees were increased across the province. They were neither of the magnitude the member suggests, nor in their eventual impact are they anywhere near the amount the member suggests.

I simply point out that in increasing some of the fees of the court system, we looked at increasing those fees which we felt would not have an impact on access to justice. In other words, they would not block deserving people from having their issues resolved in our courts. I think we've been effective in doing that. We've increased those fees which would not impact on access to justice. We've increased those fees where we believe there would be relative ease in paying those fees.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION SPENDING

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): My question is to the Minister of Transportation. I want to reiterate: It's to the Minister of Transportation, not Hans Christian Andersen. We don't want a fairy tale today when he answers. I'd like a very simple answer.

The Premier and the Treasurer have been talking a great story about the need to renew Ontario's crumbling infrastructure and to stimulate Ontario's weak economy. In the light of these commitments, could you explain why the Ministry of Transportation capital budget for this year, on an estimates basis, is some \$310 million less than last year?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I take a great deal of pride to answer what, a priori, seems to be a shortcoming or a pitfall. Suffice to say that after the budget tabled in this House by the Treasurer a couple of weeks back, we remain the largest capital budget in the province of Ontario. We spend more money on transportation to put people to work than any other ministry. That's the truth, that's the reality.

You will also recall so vividly, because I do as if it were this morning, that the Treasurer has made the announcement that \$2.3 billion over the next five years will be used for capital programs, and this year, as we speak, \$500 million will be used for capital programs to put people to work. We remain confident at Transportation that we shall secure a very large chunk of that infrastructure money.

Mr Turnbull: I'm pleased I made the admonition that I didn't want to go to Hans Christian Andersen, but as usual we have had a fairy tale.

As I said before, the capital budget, on an estimates basis, if you can read these, Minister of Transportation, is some \$310 million less than last year. The Premier has trudged around the country talking about the need for massive spending. He's been begging the Prime Minister to fund infrastructure, and yet you are not prepared to put your money where your mouth is. How can you possibly say you're going to fund infrastructure and you want massive development of Ontario roads when you are reducing the budget?

1510

Hon Mr Pouliot: With the highest of respect, if only the member opposite could focus and inform the House as to what project or projects have been either delayed or cancelled. There's been none. Everything is business as usual, everything is on stream.

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for York Mills.

Hon Mr Pouliot: But the member must be aware that this is an open-minded administration, and therefore we are looking at new and innovative ways to secure capital so that projects will not be cancelled nor delayed. Quite the contrary, sir, they will be accelerated so that more people will be working and, just as important, people will look forward to the kind of programs and services their tax dollars so well deserve.

NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): My question is for the Solicitor General. Minister, I'd like to raise with you a question of public safety that is causing a lot of concern in my riding. It has to do with a nuclear power facility across the lake.

As you know, the question of accidents at nuclear power plants is of great concern to many people. They realize that accidents don't respect international boundaries, and this reactor is actually quite close to us. It's only around 50 miles across the lake.

I know there are constituents in my riding who are prepared, in the case of an accident, to leave immediately, but the problem is that they have to know about the accident before they can take action. On March 23 of this year an alert was called at that plant, yet the city was not informed.

I would like to know, Mr Minister, what types of procedures are in place for municipalities to be informed of these types of incidents when they occur, and further I'd like to know what your ministry is doing to ensure that the type of incident that occurred in March does not happen again.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): In most cases like the one the honourable member has described, a call is made to city officials from the emergency planning Ontario branch of my ministry to inform them of a situation that is ongoing.

In the specific case the member refers to, the reason the city of Kingston was not informed by the province of the incident at the Nine Mile Point reactor was that the state of New York did not inform the province of Ontario of this circumstance. New York state officials stated that the alert was simply a technical compliance with the regulations and there was no danger to public safety, and therefore they didn't call.

Quite frankly, however, we don't perceive that to be acceptable here in the Ontario, and officials of the emergency planning Ontario group have been in contact with the officials of New York state and have come to a situation where we have ensured that they will in fact contact us whenever that kind of event occurs; in turn, our ministry will inform the municipality of Kingston and other municipalities that may be affected.

Mr Gary Wilson: Minister, as you know, this wasn't the first time an incident happened, and I'm sure it could happen in other nuclear power facilities. Certainly it has come under quite a bit of discussion at the Kingston city council. I would like to be assured that the kind of information people need will be there, not only when an alert happens but before, so they'll be ready to take action; certainly that there will be pressure on nuclear power plants to make sure they are as safe as possible.

Is there anything that your ministry can do about this problem of making sure that people are well informed of the operation of nuclear power plants?

Hon Mr Pilkey: Yes, we can, and one of the greatest things we can do to avoid these kinds of difficulties is to communicate with one another. As I indicated in the original response, these communications have been built on and enhanced and I think will satisfy everyone.

In the particular case of the city of Kingston, the members of the Emergency Measures Organization have agreed to meet with the officials of that municipality to discuss the circumstance with them to keep them fully informed. I think that kind of briefing will stand everyone very well.

CULTURAL FUNDING

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): To the Minister of Culture and Communications: Ontario only has one provincial art gallery, and the effect of the minister's present policy is to reduce its operating budget from \$12.1 million to \$9.5 million in one year. The effect of this is that 200 employees, almost half the gallery's staff, will immediately lose their jobs.

Today in the *Globe and Mail* the president of the two unions at the art gallery says, Minister, that one of your paid political speechwriters is Susan Crean.

For reasons of her own, this speechwriter, Susan Crean, who lives in British Columbia, has been a vitriolic and long-time critic of the provincial art gallery. The union president says in her letter, as the editorial in the *Star* did on Friday, that your speechwriter is trying to drive a wedge between the gallery and its employees on one hand, and the ministry on the other, and that the gallery has not been fairly treated by you.

Does the minister endorse the views of Susan Crean? Why does she use this paid political speechwriter to do her hatchet work?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): Susan Crean was contracted once within my ministry to do a function for us regarding gathering 100 artists from all over Ontario. She was hired as a scribe to do a report on that gathering, and opening remarks.

If the honourable member thinks that freelancing for the government amounts to a gag order, he is incorrect. We do not require people who are contracted under this ministry once never to have anything to say against something they themselves don't like. Susan Crean has been writing on the art gallery since 1974, and I hope she continues to do so. That is her right to do so.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for oral questions has expired.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Given that the NDP unanimously supported my Rouge Valley park resolution, and given that the terms of references in the government's management plans call for the preparation of a park plan for lands north of Steeles, I contend that my privileges as a member have been breached in the inclusion of site M6 in the long list of candidate sites for the Metropolitan Toronto-York region landfill site search, and I therefore request, through you, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of the Environment, who is responsible for the Interim Waste Authority, be required to withdraw site M6 immediately from the long list of candidate sites.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member may know that the status of resolutions passed in the House is not the same as the status of legislation which is passed in the House. While I appreciate very much her concern in this particular instance, she does not have a point of privilege. Of course, she has a point about something which is of intense interest to herself and many other people within this chamber and without.

PETITIONS

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF YORK NORTH

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I have two petitions, the first to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by some 30 persons:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government change the name of the riding known as York North to York-Mackenzie."

I signed this petition in support.

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Mr Charles Beer (York North): The second petition reads as follows, opposing the introduction of a new tax on real estate gains:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases, a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

I signed that as well, Mr Speaker.

BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I'm pleased to table a petition signed by concerned constituents who live in my riding of Oakville South and the surrounding area, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas Bronte Creek Provincial Park is used by families throughout the Halton region and the province for pleasure and recreation throughout all seasons of the year;

"We, the undersigned, adamantly demand that the Bronte Creek Provincial Park, with its present boundaries, remain open to the public for pleasure and recreation through all seasons of the year."

1520

TRANSPORTATION OF WASTE

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition here to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the Ontario Waste Management Corp is proposing to build and operate a huge centralized toxic waste incinerator at a landfill site in the heart of Ontario's farm land in Niagara;

"Whereas toxic waste must be treated at the source because transportation of such huge volumes of toxic waste on our highways is suicidal,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to change the mandate and directions being promoted by this crown corporation, the Ontario Waste Management Corp."

On this petition are 498 signatures from residents of Niagara. I also affix my signature to this petition.

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition signed by a number of residents in my riding and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative of Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren, Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

Mr Speaker, I have signed my name.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly that reads as follows:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That is signed by some 225 people from Unionville, Toronto, Markham and Aurora, and I too have affixed my name to this petition.

REGULATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. This petition is signed by 27 members of my constituency and immediate area in support of legislation for the regulation of social work in Ontario in order to protect the people of Ontario from unskilled, unethical and incompetent practices.

I have signed my name to this petition.

IRRADIATION OF FOOD

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition signed by a number of individuals in my riding which

is dealing with irradiation, and they are asking the Legislature to take all steps to do anything against irradiation, to permit irradiation to appear on the supermarket shelf but only with proper identification and labelling to that effect.

I have affixed my signature.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by 460 people from Prescott, Owen Sound, Welland and Ridgeville. The petition reads as follows:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have affixed my signature.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition here signed by 49 constituents from Middlesex county who ask the Legislature of Ontario to set aside the Brant report, in view of the opinion by these constituents that their concern around agricultural land and their wishes that there be a limited annexation were not met in the Brant report.

I have signed my name to this petition.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalized casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

It's signed by 44 individuals from my riding of Wellington.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I have a petition with 42 names from the communities of Peterborough, Bethany, Fraserville, Cameron, Woodville, Millbrook, Havelock and Bancroft, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, as citizens of the province of Ontario, believe the Constitution of any genuinely democratic society

truly belongs to its people and that our views on any changes to Canada's Constitution must be heard and final approval of such changes must be given by the citizens of Ontario;

"We request of you who administer the affairs of this province to make available every opportunity of the people to see and understand fully what the new Constitution and/or any amendments thereto will mean to each of us and then make provision for a final say by the people of Ontario by way of a binding referendum."

HUMAN RIGHTS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have the first of many petitions here today from a group of 68 organizations regarding the inclusive neighbourhood campaign.

"Whereas there is a shortage of affordable rental housing units in Ontario; and

"Whereas this shortage most affects individuals and groups facing discrimination and social and economic disadvantage, for example, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, first nations people, women, gay men and lesbians, seniors, youth, single parents, people with children, people with disabilities, psychiatric survivors and people on social assistance; and

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Code affirms that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, handicap or receipt of social assistance, and that any policy or factor which results in this exclusion of people who come within the prohibited grounds of discrimination is illegal; and

"Whereas people who cannot afford to buy a house are often excluded from the lower-density neighbourhoods, which are generally well served by community educational and recreational services; and

"Whereas many thousands of home owners in all municipalities across Ontario have created additional units in their homes that have not changed the quality of life in their neighbourhoods; and

"Whereas tenants in such illegal units are not guaranteed the legal rights and protection that tenants in legal units have, therefore creating two classes of tenants; and

"Whereas zoning practices are exclusionary and are a violation of rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

"Whereas the province of Ontario agreed to article XI of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

"We therefore petition the government of Ontario, in particular the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Citizenship responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Code to immediately put an end to this widespread violation of human rights across the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing."

I affix my signature.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): I have a petition from eastern and western Ontario with 283 signatures. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I affix my signature.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I have a petition from Arn and Shirley Small and their hardworking staff at the local Beaver Lumber. These hardworking people are opposed to Sunday shopping. That's what the petition is about.

1530

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

This is signed by 23 citizens of Lucan and area. I have signed it myself.

DRIVERS' LICENCES

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario containing 99 names from my riding of Dufferin-Peel and surrounding area.

"Whereas the recent death and injury of five youths within the riding of Dufferin-Peel has deeply disturbed the residents; and

"Whereas these deaths might have been prevented if legislation concerning graduated licensing had been in place; and

"Whereas we would like to prevent further deaths and injuries to our new drivers and young people,

"We would like to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to bring forward legislation to introduce graduated licences within the province of Ontario."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 26 members of my constituency who object to the expense related to the erection of bilingual signs in Ontario. I have not affixed my name to the petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

This is a petition signed by members of Slater Steels, Wellington Plumbing and Heating Ltd, Bravo Cement Contracting (Toronto) Ltd, Victaulic Co of Canada Limited and Le Page's Limited. I have signed my signature to this.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a petition that has been signed by 388 people living in Sioux Lookout, Milverton, Elmira and Mississauga. It says:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition that reads:

"We, the residents of a land-leased community, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on the resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been a confusion resulting in the status of residents with long-term leases where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report for the land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

It's been signed by people like the Kings, the Moffats, the Smiths and the Pattersons, and I affix my name.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time for presenting petitions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

POWER CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI
SUR LA SOCIÉTÉ DE L'ÉLECTRICITÉ

Deferred vote on the motion for third reading of Bill 118, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société de l'électricité.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): This is a deferred vote. There will be a five-minute bell. Call in the members.

1540

The House divided on Mr Charlton's motion for third reading of Bill 118, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—63

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lessard, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

Nays—38

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Carr, Chiarelli, Conway, Cousens, Cunningham, Daigeler, Eddy, Eves, Fawcett, Harnick, Harris, Jackson, Jordan, Kwinter, Mancini, Marland, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau), Poirier, Poole, Scott, Sorbara, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West), Witmer.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Cooke moved government notice of motion 7.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I will not speak at length because I think these matters have been before the Legislature on many occasions.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As the chairman of the caucus of the Progressive Conservative Party, this is the first time I am aware of that we have been required to discuss a matter in this Legislature before my caucus has had an opportunity to meet and discuss the proposal the government is putting forward. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I think it's quite inappropriate that this government order of business is called at this time.

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): Mr Speaker, I wish to support my colleague who has just spoken to the Legislature in regard to what the government is doing this afternoon. I think it is highly unfair of the government to introduce such a massive package.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): That is not a point of order. It is not a point of order.

Mr Mancini: So you're going to allow the government to change all the rules? That is what you're going to allow to happen here.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Cooke, you have the floor.
Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, if it's a right point of order, the member for Ottawa West.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Mr Speaker, I believe the minister stated that this Legislature has discussed these rules before and that he therefore would not take time in explanation.

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of order, thank you.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of order. Please take your seat. Minister.

Hon Mr Cooke: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I must say that over the period of time that my party has been in office the whole issue of whether there were going to be rule changes discussed in the Legislature or not—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Burlington South, order please.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Minister, only you have the floor.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, obviously with the kind of concern that's being expressed by the opposition, I will be very brief indeed. The rule changes as they are being proposed will, in my view—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, the member for Essex South. Minister.

Hon Mr Cooke: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The rule changes that we are proposing to the House today would simply bring the rules of our Legislature—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister has the floor.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon Mr Cooke: I'm getting exercise anyway, Mr Speaker. Perhaps the best way to approach it would be to allow the opposition to speak. I or colleagues of mine can make comments at an appropriate time. I put the rule changes. They're explained. They were on the Orders and Notices paper. I ask the House to debate them. I'll turn it over to the Liberal Party.

1550

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for St Catharines, I warn you.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. We just can't go on this way.

Minister, do you have further remarks? Further debate?

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): Unlike many others, I am delighted to participate in this debate and, at the risk of being slightly immodest, I think it is right and fitting that I should begin this debate.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your seat.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Renfrew North, you have the floor.

Mr Conway: I repeat that unlike others, apparently, I am very pleased to have an opportunity to begin what I expect—

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Very what? Say that again. What was that word?

Mr Conway: I look forward to beginning this debate—

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Sean, you can't be pleased about this.

Mr Conway: Well, I am pleased in a perverse kind of way, because I think it is right and fitting that I should be the one, of all people, to begin this debate.

Let me be perhaps a bit indelicate. We have some members in this chamber who don't know the honourable member for Windsor-Riverside as well as I do. I know him better than anyone in this place. I have been in the parliamentary trenches with the honourable member for Windsor-Riverside, and I must say that it is a very particular and idiosyncratic pleasure to be with the government House leader in these matters.

It is no secret that I relate to him like Stephen Lewis related to Morty Shulman. I don't like the member for Windsor-Riverside. In fact, on a number of occasions I can tell you that I have behaved badly because I dislike him so completely. I give him credit as a resourceful and hardworking fellow who has I think done very good bidding for his colleagues; I take nothing away from him on that account. But in my dealings with him I have often found him to be a man whose word is not worth the paper it is written on. I find him to be someone of a very disagreeable kind. I'll tell you, three years ago in a similar debate I found his disagreeableness endless. I found that it verged on the despicable. I'm glad he's leaving, because it will make—

Interjections.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): He's leaving because he's a coward.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, I don't accept that type of language in this House. Please.

Mr Scott: I withdraw it.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I understand the harshness of this language and I don't offer it lightly, but I tell you that I have a history with this honourable member on this file. The things he's done and the utter worthlessness of his word in this debate over the years has been, as I say, from my own personal point of view, absolutely breathtaking. So unlike others, what I have today surprises me not a whit—not a whit.

I would have thought the leader of the government would crawl out of here today, however. I would have thought he would crawl out of here on his virtue and his long face today, because in a session of NDP flip-flops we have another one. I want to say to my friends opposite that before this debate is over we are going to have chapter and verse as to how government notice of motion 7, offered by the honourable government House leader today, is at complete and absolute variance with everything that David Cooke and Bob Rae and David Reville and Ross McClellan and Elie Martel have stood for and fought for all the years they have been in this Legislature.

I'm sorry my friends from the Globe and Mail aren't here—I saw one of the reporters here a moment ago—because I want to begin with the beginning of this public notice. We didn't get it, of course, in the regular way. I think it's important to observe how members of the Legislature got notice of this significant government public policy.

Let me say, in ways that I suspect again put me at variance with a number of my colleagues in the opposition, I am very willing, probably much more willing than most members of the opposition and many in the government, to consider rule changes. I'll be very mischievous in telling you why: because there is one group of jackboot artists in this place that I would like to have some tightened rules to apply to. That group is the NDP.

I have been bad. I will admit that over the 17 years I have done some things that don't do me much credit in retrospect. My party has done some things of which I did not approve, and I will be specific. In 1982, 10 years ago

this month or last month, when I was away in southeast Asia, my friends undertook the ringing of bells, a copycat of what had gone on in Ottawa. I wasn't here, but had I been I would have fought that with every ounce of my being, because I find that kind of tactic fascistic. I find it absolutely outrageous. It contradicts the very reason we have a Parliament. I don't think it was a very creditable day for the Liberal Party of Ontario when my colleagues rang the bells.

I think I'll let others speak about my friends in the third party. They've had some anxious moments themselves, where they've engaged in some tactics that I suspect, over time and with some reflection, they might not have perhaps wanted to be highlighted in their parliamentary résumé.

I know I'm not the most dispassionate and objective observer in this matter, but in my time in this Legislature, generally speaking, the group of people that has been most consistently outrageous in the twisting and bending and flouting of the rules of this Legislature and the Mother of Parliaments from which we descend is none other than the New Democratic Party. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that no two members have been more predictably outrageous in their jackboot tactics than Dave Cooke and Bob Rae.

To be piously lectured to now by the member for Windsor-Riverside, as he has in the statement made to the Globe and Mail today, is to lie awake and hear the tones of Elmer Gantry, is to read Chaucer's Pardoner's Tale, to see hypocrisy on stilts. There's no other phrase for it. It would be like me coming to this House and advocating the virtue of short speeches and silence; I would expect all my friends on all sides to simply throw up their hands in laughter and incredulity. But to get a lecture from Dave Cooke and Bob Rae about the need for a kinder, gentler, more productive Legislature is hypocrisy itself.

I mean, I ask my friends of some standing, who was it that denied Bob Nixon—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would ask you to be very careful in the choice of your words.

1600

Mr Conway: Mr Speaker, I appreciate your advice. I understand, in a particular way, your sensibilities. I must say, if all honourable members had your sensibilities we would not have the kind of raucous place we sometimes have. I ask you to recall that day three years ago, I think it was, when Bob Rae and Dave Cooke decided that we were not going to allow the Treasurer of Ontario to read his budget. Remember that?

Before I get into the particulars, I was really touched by the way this all became public. Did the House leaders receive information through regular channels? My friend the member for Bruce is now here. He shakes his head in the negative. What did we get? We got a story in this morning's Globe and Mail. I want to say something about my friends in the Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper. I read it on a daily basis. I'm sorry to say this, and this is probably being politically incorrect, but I've been struck in recent weeks by the new protocol in the Globe and Mail where it offers up government accounts, or rather quite one-sided accounts of government propositions.

There was a time, when people like Norman Webster and others were here, when if one were leaked information, as obviously the *Globe and Mail* was in respect of government notice of motion 7, there would have been some effort to consult with perhaps the learned Dr Graham White at the University of Toronto, to say nothing—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I picked up the paper this morning and there it was in the *Globe and Mail*, a big headline saying, "MPPs Face A Long, Hot Summer." In an article by Richard Mackie, quite an extensive article which clearly was based on government notice of motion 7, we have the government's rationale. I guess I say to my friend Rick—

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West, order, please.

Mr Conway: I want to say that I read the morning paper, the *Globe and Mail*—I didn't see it in any other paper—and I saw the government rationale. I'm going to go through that in a moment, but I must say I'm disappointed. I know times are tough in the newspaper business; I know budgets are being restrained but there was a time particularly when national newspapers, I thought, felt the need to balance these kinds of accounts.

There is very little balance in this story—as far as I'm concerned, no effort at all to consult. I don't really care if there's any consultation with the opposition, but I would have thought that perhaps some of the learned parliamentary experts might have been consulted for the other side on this. It is a very interesting story that the government, quite frankly, could have written itself.

I congratulate the \$125,000-a-year spin doctors who are there. That's their job. I don't mean this as a criticism of the government. If you can do this and have it printed, then you've won something of the battle—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: Gerry McAuliffe is presumably earning his money. I simply make the point for some of my friends in the press gallery that when I see a story like that I'm reminded how times have changed. I want to look at the article. I'm going to just touch on some of the points in the article.

Mr Scott: Would Tommy Douglas have hired Gerry McAuliffe?

Mr Conway: I don't know. Let me read from some of Mr Mackie's article this morning:

"The Ontario Legislature faces a long, hot summer as the NDP government fights to change the Legislature's rules to help it push through several major bills the opposition has threatened to block."

I want to digress for a moment. It's quite clear under the rules of our place when this particular notice of motion had to be in the hands of the Clerk. It was almost certainly in the hands of the Clerk on Thursday, June 4, of last week.

Mr Speaker, I ask you and honourable members of this Legislature to think what else came on Thursday of last week: the amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, much talked about, much promised. Some of us thought they would be before the Legislature in something other than the last three weeks of the normal sitting of the spring session. What we got on Thursday was, first, the very controversial amendments to the Labour Relations Act, about which controversy my friends in the government know only too well; and surreptitiously handed at one and the same time presumably to the Clerk's office and to the *Globe and Mail*, government notice of motion number 7.

Let there be no confusion. Government notice of motion number 7, the Dave Cooke-Bob Rae rule change package, is principally New Democratic grease to make more fluid and more easy the legislative rails on which sit some very controversial bills like the Labour Relations Amendment Act. There is a causal relationship to be sure between government notice of motion number 7 and the Labour Relations Act, without any question.

Mr Mackie helpfully goes on in this article this morning to predict that it's not just the Labour Relations Act but it's the other legislative items that the government is concerned about—so concerned, I might add, that the normal spring session began about three weeks later than normal this year at the government's insistence.

The government is concerned about its pay equity legislation and it's concerned about a variety of other initiatives that are outlined in this proposal. Mr Mackie helpfully observes that the NDP is worried about opposition Liberals and Tories who want to exact some accountability and focus some public debate on this myriad of government bills.

I thought this was very touching as well, that government House leader David Cooke complained, Mr Mackie helpfully observes, that in their opposition the Liberals and the Tories had changed the nature of the House rules by insisting on lengthy debates and votes at stages of the legislative procedure that had gone smoothly in the past.

That is manifestly not true. There are other words that Bob Rae would use to describe that kind of presentation of the case. I won't use Mr Rae's words. I'm not into that kind of four-lettered language, but I repeat, Mr Cooke's expression of views as reported by Mr Mackie is simply not true. Of course, since it's Mr Cooke, some might be surprised. I certainly am not.

The article goes on to cite examples where the opposition is now asking for votes on first reading. That, Mr Cooke argues, is something new. Mr Cooke should go back and look at the history of the NDP in this Legislature over the last 20 years. He would understand where some of these tactics came from.

I perfectly understand what first reading is all about. I have always believed that people should have the right to introduce a bill on first reading and it should be supported, because all we are doing on first reading is offering the Legislature an opportunity to see the particular legislation. But the NDP over the years have been very quick to force votes on first reading and then to run out of the chamber

and manipulate and misrepresent what that first reading vote was all about. Oh, my friends in the NDP, how they have a coloured past at variance with their sainted present.

We see as well Mr Cooke's angst and concern about the fact that we are now getting some lengthy debates on third reading. I myself am guilty of that, because some honourable members like the member for Riverdale were here the other night to hear a fairly lengthy speech from myself on third reading of the Hydro bill. I will admit it was a lengthy oration. It was probably too long. But I have to tell you that I was very concerned by what we heard in the course of the public hearings on the government's hydro and energy policy and I felt I should use whatever time was available to report on those proceedings.

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Let me just ask my friends opposite to go into Hansard and look at what the NDP did in recent years with respect to legislation around the common pause day and what it did around legislation concerning public auto insurance, to name but two. I'm going to tell you, Mr Speaker, that if you want to see lengthy third reading debates, one only has to look at what the NDP has done over the years. I can think of those two examples from memory, but it is a much longer list. Now Mr Cooke goes on in the article to say the government is frustrated because it's been allowed to pass only 13 pieces of legislation.

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): Thank God.

Mr Conway: Mr friend from Prescott says, "Thank God." I think there are some elements in the community that would affirm what my friend from Prescott has said: Thank God. I must say the NDP has this idea that it was elected with 37% of the vote and that it's got 74 seats, and don't people on the other side and in the community generally understand that this gives it a majority mandate to run the province for five years and let the opposition and the critics outside take the hindmost?

I've been struck by the number of times my friends, particularly the newly elected members over there—good people, to be sure—have said: "But don't you understand? We won the election and your job is essentially to affirm or to allow the passage of that which we in majority conclave have decided is in the public interest." Some of you may even remember those days 25 years ago when John Robarts used to say, when pressed: "Why? Simply because we're over here and you're over there." The opposition used to bristle with that kind of arrogance that some said characterized four decades of uninterrupted Conservative rule.

I will say to my friends opposite that they have won the right to run the government of Ontario. I obviously have no ground on which to challenge that. But there is a process, and admittedly there is a process that we always want to be changing and updating. I believe that what has made the British parliamentary tradition so strong and so lasting is its elastic and evolutionary character. We have an obligation to look at the way we do business in this Parliament and see how it might be altered.

I have been struck by some of the views of new members who've come here and said, "We don't like the male-

ness of the place, we don't like the slowness of some of the pace and we don't like the kind of consultation mechanisms the previous legislatures and previous governments have decided on." That's altogether good and healthy and I have no quarrel with that.

I just have to say to my friend Mr Mackie, reporting my non-friend Mr Cooke, who complains that there have only been 13 bills passed in this session—my friend the Liberal House leader will speak to this at a later date—that a significant element of that is the government's own responsibility. Not all; we bear some without any question. But I was in a caucus meeting the other day—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I don't see how you can sit there and support your government's activities, Kimble, laughing your way through this afternoon when this stuff is an affront; it really is.

Mr Conway: Mr Speaker, I want to use but one example.

Mr Elston: You guys have no knowledge of the way this place works if you're able to sit there and let this stuff go through here. I cannot believe you guys. You're outrageous.

Mr Conway: I want to use one example of the current session, and my friend the member for Bruce and perhaps the member for Oriole can help me in this, because I think I'm remembering it accurately. About six months ago the government, through I think the minister, Ms Ziemba, in her several responsibilities, introduced what is generally called advocacy legislation—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Yes, three pieces.

Mr Conway: Three pieces in a package.

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): Jolly good legislation it is.

Mr Conway: The member for Peterborough says, "Jolly good legislation it is," and who am I to question her interjection? I just want to make this point: At last report, that government bill is now back before a committee with I think something approaching 200 government amendments. I think it's actually 190 government amendments.

I say to my friend from Orono, whose fault is that? In my experience around here, when you get a bill where you've got 190 government amendments—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): To their own bill.

Mr Conway: —to their own bill, that is a clear indication that one of two things obtain: Either the policy was not clearly thought out or understood, or the drafting was perfectly abominable.

I have to say to my friends opposite, and I know I speak for my friends in the Liberal and Conservative opposition, I think the member from Manotick, my friend Stormin' Norman Sterling, has had some private legislation in this respect. I think there is a broad base of consensus for this legislation. But here we are, months after the government introduced its legislative package, three bills, and we have 190 government amendments.

I say to my friends in the assembly, that's not the opposition's fault. I can tell you that if you think—and the

new members may not understand this, although I think many of them will—

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): A lot of us probably know more.

Mr Conway: Listen, I don't want to indicate that the members opposite are without understanding in these matters. I've had some good dealings with them and I find them to be not an unreasonable group, but I just say to you—

Mr Elston: This is the type of stuff that got them elected. I'd like to see your speeches that would have supported this before—

Mr Conway: I say to my friend the member for Bruce that he will want to keep his powder dry, because before I'm finished, this Legislature is going to be treated to chapter and verse of speeches offered by no less a luminary than the leader of the government himself and his serpentine acolyte, the member for Windsor-Riverside.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Stockwell: He said "serpentine acolyte." He could have said sewer dweller.

The Deputy Speaker: Your choice of words is not acceptable.

Mr Conway: Mr Speaker, I will withdraw.

Mr Elston: For the clarity of the record, can I repeat them to see which ones we withdraw?

Mr Conway: Perhaps a better word would be "saturnine." I'm not so sure. It doesn't quite capture my enthusiasm for the government House leader.

But fortunately the record is replete with speeches from my friends opposite, the leader of the government, the government House leader, even my old pal Rosco McClellan. Boy oh boy, Ross is going to be in this debate before it's over, and so will David Reville; so will those pillars of NDP parliamentary virtue.

I come back to my main point. I just think of the advocacy legislation as one example where the government does not know what it's about or where it's going. I heard from some of my colleagues that the rent review legislation was a mess and was substantially overhauled by the government and the opposition. I tell you, the energy bill, Bill 118, when I think of its introduction, it's quite clear that many in the government did not know what the act was that they were amending. Again, I've got to watch my language because I can't say what I believe, but Bill 118 was amended in two or three places where the government had, let me say, given an incomplete understanding of reality as it was. I'm just picking, willy-nilly, examples from the legislative menu of the last year.

Now we have Mr Cooke crying crocodile tears in the *Globe and Mail*, to apparently a very receptive reporter, that the government has been allowed to pass only 13 pieces of legislation.

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I didn't bring it with me because time was short today, but I saw from the House leader the other day a list of bills that the government had to have either through all stages

by the end of June or at least through the second reading stage before we adjourned for summer, and on that list were a bunch of bills that hadn't even been introduced. I remember one of them was the Ontario Labour Relations Amendment Act.

This was a government paper of about four days ago. We have a list of several items, many of them very important, that are to be introduced in the last week or two of this session and in some cases completed in all stages, or in other cases, like the Labour Relations Amendment Act, we're going to conclude the debate on principle before we adjourn on June 25.

I want to say something that may be equally obnoxious to some, but I ask myself, what would the NDP have done if a Tory or Liberal House leader had moved as this government did today with government notice of motion 7? My experience is that the first reaction from the NDP under those conditions would have been to threaten to burn the Legislative Building down. There would have been no containing their outrage. We've had NDP-sponsored demonstrations that nearly came crashing through that door. Oh boy, do I remember that day.

Mr Hope: And you know why.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Chatham-Kent betrays a very important point. He says, "And you know why." You see, this is the point with the NDP, whether it's Shelley Martel fighting Jean-Pierre Donahue, whether it's Michele Landsberg attacking the paediatrician in North Bay, whether it's Randy Hope defending the demonstration that nearly came barging through the door of the chamber here—

Mr Hope: Peaceful.

Mr Conway: Peaceful? I was here, and if you were, you were out there. I'm just going to tell you, those three examples make a very important point about the NDP, whether it is the lofty Michele Landsberg or the earthy Randy Hope: If the cause is right, anything goes. If the cause is right, the NDP and its partisans are justified in slamming the doors of the legislative chamber open, they are justified in denying the Treasurer the right to read a budget, they are justified in ministers writing letters to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and the Minister of Northern Development is justified in publicly attacking and slandering a doctor who would deign to attack the NDP's sainted agreement with the Ontario Medical Association on the so-called fee and related issues.

Let there be no confusion about what the NDP modus operandi is and has been. I look across at the quizzical look on the member for Scarborough East and I have to believe that some of my friends opposite would probably shy away from the kind of tactics the NDP has, dare I say it, graced this House with in my time. But I'm going to tell you, the leadership of this party over the last decade, the leadership as provided by Bob Rae and David Cooke—

Mr Robert Frankford (Scarborough East): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I was referred to by the speaker, the member for Renfrew North. If he's on the subject of physicians being slandered, he's failed to mention the fact that the member behind him said that I was

involved in some scandalous behaviour that made me withdraw from being the parliamentary assistant, which is quite inaccurate. I think if he's on the subject of political unfairness, he should have mentioned that.

The Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately I could not hear the remarks, but if there were statements that offended you, I'm sure that if it was an offence, whoever made them will apologize.

Mr Elston: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I was out of the House on other business today and got an urgent call to come back, that this sort of stuff was happening. I've been sitting collecting my thoughts on all of the events that have transpired over the past few days.

I happened, almost by accident, to be here on Friday last, and my privileges as House leader of the Liberal Party were certainly violated. On two occasions during that day I asked members of the staff of the government House leader what the business would be for today. Not having been made aware of the fact that there had been a motion filed, having been told by those people that they had no idea, Mr Speaker, I want you to look into the fact of whether or not the privileges of the opposition House leader—

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. That has been raised—

Mr Elston: No. Not by me.

The Deputy Speaker: Not by you, no. This is not a point of privilege.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I'm sorry. What is a point of privilege? If you ask what the business of the House will be for Monday—we were not told on Thursday; we were not told on Friday. We come in here and see an article written by Richard Mackie. I am responsible for getting the things ready for the day. What is a privilege and what isn't?

The Deputy Speaker: This is not a point of privilege. The member for Renfrew North, you have the floor.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Since there had to be a filing of this notice by 5 o'clock on Thursday, what duty is it of the table of this House to provide information to the rest of the people in this Legislative Assembly so that we can prepare? This was done prior to 5 o'clock on Thursday. Notice was not given to us, but it was given to others. What is the duty of your table?

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I have been around here a little while too and I've observed what's gone on here. I've watched every Thursday afternoon, and at a quarter to 6 or 6 o'clock the last duty is for the House leader to give us the order of the business for the following week. Mr Speaker, that did not happen. I did not know what was going to happen in this Legislature today. My privilege as a member has been violated by this government.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, on a point of order: The member for Scarborough East raised some point of order or privilege, I'm not quite sure what it was, and made reference to "the member behind the member for Renfrew North." I believe he was

referring to me and I believe he was referring to a speech I gave a couple of weeks ago, at which time I outlined some 25 conflicts or behavioural problems from within the cabinet and the back bench. He was included as one of them.

I don't understand what his problem is. He did resign his parliamentary assistant's post, and apparently there was some cloud over that. That is the reference to which I was referring.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member for Scarborough East.

Mr Frankford: I think I should have the opportunity of responding to a statement that there was some cloud over me.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The point of order was raised immediately. I've asked you if there were any comments that were made. This is not a debate.

The member for Renfrew North, you have the floor.

Mr Conway: I want to pick up on what my friends the members for Bruce and Simcoe East said, because I can go one better. I was here on Thursday evening. I was right behind the Speaker's desk at about 6:30 when Mr Sterling, Mrs Cunningham and I were trying, together with the government House leader, to resolve the business of Thursday evening and Monday. I well remember what the government House leader said and didn't say about Monday.

But I have an advantage. I long ago stopped trusting and stopped believing the government House leader, because in my experience, which has been considerable, I have found the government House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside, for all his industry, for all his intellect, for all his creative capacity, to be a man whom you could not trust and whom you could not believe. So I warn anyone here who might be wishing to invest very much of himself in trusting and believing the member for Windsor-Riverside, because my experience is, you are going to be quickly, sadly, often and painfully disappointed.

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On Thursday evening at 6:30, when we were trying to resolve the business of Thursday evening and get the House adjourned, the question was put as to what was going to be on the order paper on Monday and Thursday. We agreed, I thought, that we would deal with the PC opposition day on Tuesday, the Liberal non-confidence motion on Wednesday, but Monday and Thursday were blank sheets. This is at about 6:30 on Thursday, an hour and a half after Mr Cooke had to have submitted government notice of motion to the Clerk's office. There's no question about what's happened here.

I'm sure the government has some kind of rationale for this and we will hear it later. But I might say to my friend the member for Etobicoke West, why would one want this rather interesting package of rule changes now? I gather that the government House leader said, "The government business is going to be government notice of motion until it's passed." Do you know what? I think it's not primarily targeted at the opposition, truculent as we are or may be. Dave Cooke and Bob Rae have decided they are not going to tolerate the Peter Kormos insurgency. Bob Rae, like Pepperidge Farm, remembers, and Bob Rae will remember

what made Peter Kormos famous. What did Peter Kormos do on the Elston Liberal auto insurance bill? Many of you weren't here.

Mr Elston: He did it for Bob Rae. Bob Rae hugged him with enthusiasm.

Mr Conway: Oh, he did it for Bob Rae. Do you know what I like? I can only remember one incident, but I want my friends opposite to understand the difficulty of this lecture today. We had a day in this House about three years ago where a New Democratic member stood up and called a member a liar just so he could get a vote on the Speaker's ruling to start ringing the bells for days on end. The NDP did that. It was a very honourable activity. That's just one of the things they did—

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Put an end to it. Change the rules.

Mr Conway: My friend from Durham Centre says, "Put an end to it." I did, because I think that is thoroughly discreditable conduct. I just ask you to think about it.

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): That was then.

Mr Conway: No. I don't think it's ever appropriate to stand up and call another member a liar in this place, although Bob Rae did it. You see, that's our problem. As my friend the member for Scarborough-Agincourt was observing today, if you applied the Bob Rae rule to the happy world of NDP flip-floppery these last two months, there's no question what you'd be calling Bob Rae, but honourable members, hopefully, would not follow his discreditable example.

As the member for Bruce rightfully observes, to have seen the member from Welland engage in the kind of outrageous tactics he did and then to see the outrage applauded by a Brezhnev-like bear hug offered by Bob Rae makes this day a little hard to take. That's not because I'm not prepared to change the rules.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: I probably am. You see, I had so many NDP jackboots drilled into me that I've got more reason than most people. The member for Windsor-Riverside: What can I say that I haven't said in an unparliamentary way already? I just come back to what has to be observed. I don't think in the first instance that this government notice of motion is directed at us. I think it's directed at the Kormos insurgency because, Mr Speaker, I'm hearing, and from very reliable sources, that people like the member from Welland, together with his lieutenant, the member for Yorkview, are out working on getting a number of members to engage in the debate on the Sunday shopping bill.

I tell you, Mr Speaker, if Peter Kormos decides to do to the Rae government on key issues, for him, like public auto insurance or the common pause day, Dave Cooke and Bob Rae have a big, real and lasting problem—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): The member for Yorkview will come to order.

Mr Conway: Because having written the rule book a few years ago, Mr Kormos can now apply the rule and the tactic to his own beloved leader.

Mr David Winninger (London South): You have a very fertile imagination.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for London South says I have a fertile imagination. Isn't that interesting? I only say in response, as fertile as my imagination is, I never dreamt I would live to see the day when Bob Rae would say: "There is no need for a pause day. There is no call now for a public auto insurance scheme as we offered it 18 months ago. We now are prepared to consider dumps in the Rouge and Whitevale and 45 other places." And my favourite example: In the party of Woodsworth and Jolliffe and Stanley Knowles and Stephen Lewis and Michele Landsberg, the NDP has come to believe in social gaming and casino gambling.

I say to my friend the member for London South, it is indeed a brave new political firmament that has such New Democrats in it. So for all the fertility of my mind, I can tell you that there have been developments in recent days which indicate I am very narrow and very blinkered in imagining what might have been possible, and the government is but 21 months old.

But let's go back to the announcement in the semiofficial Mackie article this morning.

Interjection: Pravda.

Mr Conway: Al-Ahram, as they used to say in the Middle East. This I like. I thought this was really interesting. I warn my friend the member for Bruce not to rise too quickly, because he has more than cause. "Mr Cooke gave notice of his intention to change the rules two weeks ago in an interview with the Globe and Mail." So why do we bother with printing all this paper? Why do we bother with the House leaders' panel? Let me say that I'm not going to stand here—

Mr Chiarelli: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I've been listening to the debate and considering the motion and I'm going to ask you to rule that this motion is out of order. I want to refer to several rules, which are fairly clearly set out.

I would like to refer you to standing orders 52 and 53, in particular standing order 53:

"Before the adjournment of the House on each Thursday during the session, the government House leader shall announce the business for the following week."

That's mandatory. I want to refer to standing order 52:

"Except as otherwise provided in these standing orders, government business will be taken up in the discretion of the government House leader or a minister acting in his or her place."

I think these two rules are very clear and very explicit. It says that "except as otherwise provided" there is a discretion. Then it makes it mandatory to set the order of business on the Thursday before.

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Mr Speaker, I want to refer you to the Hansard for June 4, 1992, under the heading, "Business of the House."

"Hon David S. Cooke (Government House leader): Mr Speaker, before I move adjournment of the House, pursuant to standing order 53 I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

"On Monday, June 8, 1992"—

The Acting Speaker: I'd like to bring the member to order if I could, for a moment, please. I've heard quite a bit at this point in time. I have discussed it with the table officers to try to be sure of my ruling on this.

As far as I can see, I would like to say that the honourable minister did say, in this House at 11:45 on Thursday, what his intentions were going to be, therefore I don't believe that there's anything out of order at this point. I'd like to continue with the debate. The honourable member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. There's no question as to what I heard on Thursday night at 6:30 pm when the government—

Interjection: You've got to recognize a point of order.

The Acting Speaker: I beg your pardon. Yes, the honourable member has a point of order.

Mr Chiarelli: With due respect, Mr Speaker, I was in the process of making a point of order and I hadn't completed it. I think you were anticipating what my rationale and what my reason was. I would like the opportunity to complete the point of order.

The Acting Speaker: From the information that the honourable member has made, you indicated that the honourable minister did not indicate ahead of time that he was going to be dealing with these issues. At 11:45 in the evening he stated what would be happening in this House. I think that indicates that he has given notice, and therefore there's nothing out of order.

Mr Chiarelli: If I may refer to the rule again, it does not say the minister can state on two occasions on a Thursday and change his mind. It says here quite specifically "Business of the House," and it says quite specifically that he was not dealing with this motion number 7 whatsoever. Mr Speaker, I want to refer to rules 52 and 53 again. I want you to take it under advisement and perhaps give your ruling at another time, but I believe this motion is out of order as improper notice has been given.

As I look at Hansard from June 4 it indicates, "On Monday, June 8, 1992, I will announce the business for Monday, June 8, 1992." The point I'm making is that this is not a proper announcing of business contemplated under rule 53. I'm not sure there's even a precedent, to which the table is referring, to say that at some subsequent time, because of a surprise motion and the evening going on beyond the regular time, the House leader would stand up and do a new business of the House or whether that is in fact in order.

I believe members are entitled to rely on the business of the House as indicated in Hansard on page 1163.

The Acting Speaker: You have made the point. I will take it under advisement. I will be speaking on this issue in the next few minutes. Yes, another point of order.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: In support of the member who has just spoken, I would like to indicate a couple of factors which I would like you to take into consideration. First of all, it's now quite obvious to all of us here that the govern-

ment House leader had filed this notice of motion with the Clerk by 5 pm last Thursday. I don't understand how the government House leader could tell the House and the members at 11:45 pm, some seven hours later, that he didn't know what the business of the House was going to be the following week.

At the very least he wasn't being totally up front, if you will, with the Legislature and the members of the Legislature. He is required by the standing orders, before the adjournment of the House each Thursday of a session, to give notice as to what the business of the House will be in the following week. He clearly did not do that. What he really said was: "Unbeknownst to any of you, I've filed what I'm going to deal with on Monday but I ain't going to tell you. You have to come back on Monday to find out." That's exactly what he did.

To further aggravate the situation, he indicated to my staff that we would be dealing with Bills 166 and 165 on Monday. That's what he indicated to my staff last Thursday, that's what was agreed upon, and we show up today only to read a story in the *Globe and Mail*—he obviously provided the information to the *Globe and Mail* before the paper could've been printed, and it was on my desk when I arrived this morning at Queen's Park—and he chose to send me a hand-delivered letter with the notice of motion at 10 am this morning.

I would submit to you, Mr Speaker, that this motion is totally out of order. If the government House leader would like to do it properly and in the right fashion in accordance with the rules, then we'd be happy to deal with any motion he should so introduce. But this motion was not introduced properly. He has not complied with rules 52 and 53 of the standing orders and in fact, if anything, went out of his way to cover up or be covert about what he really planned on introducing in the Legislature today.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable House leader for the third party. I will take this under advisement.

Mr Mahoney: I have an additional point there.

The Acting Speaker: Additional point on this point of order.

Mr Mahoney: My colleague has pointed out in that section 53, "Before the adjournment"—and just bear with me very briefly—"on each Thursday...the government House leader shall announce the business..." That's 53. If you move back to 51, it very clearly says, "All notices required by the standing orders of the House or otherwise shall be laid on the table or filed with the Clerk of the House before 5 pm and printed on the Orders and Notices paper for the following day."

The following day from a Thursday sitting, since this Legislature does not sit on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, is Monday. He has apparently lived by that section of rule 51 by printing it in Monday's Orders and Notices document, but the first part, that it must be laid on the table before 5 o'clock the preceding day of business of this Legislature, was not followed through with and therefore it is out of order, in my view.

I would then take you back to section 50, which says, "A member who has given notice of or moved a motion

may withdraw the same," and then go back one more to 49, and it says, "No motion, or amendment, the subject-matter of which has been decided upon, can be again proposed during the same session."

I would suggest, Mr Speaker, that if you put all those together, then clearly he did not notify this House before 5 o'clock. He has violated that section of the rule. He then went on to print something he had not given notice of. His only option is to do what it says under section 50, which is that he himself withdraw the motion under the standing orders, and then under section 49 he would not be permitted to put this draconian motion again during this session.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm sorry if this is dragging on and it's bothering the members opposite, but I think it's rather important, as I'm sure the people in this province think it's rather important when you try and usurp the minority's rights.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member please state his point of order.

Mr Stockwell: I think the point of order is very well thought out and very factual. I think it would be important for you as Speaker to rule on this point of order right now, or at least recess this House for a period of time until you can decide—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Guelph will please come to order.

Mr Stockwell: I think it would be important for you to recess this House for a period of time until you decide the length of time, how long it will take for you to reach a decision on this, because, Mr Speaker, I believe firmly that this whole debate is out of order. If this government is concerned about wasting government time, this is the most appropriate time for you to recess and bring back a ruling in some 30 minutes to an hour so we can understand whether we're dealing with an issue that's properly before us.

According to the rules of this place, it would appear very obvious that the government House leader knew full well at 11:45—and I was here Thursday night at 11:45—what the business of the day was today, and he—I don't like to use the words "misled the House," but he simply did not, for some clandestine purpose, inform this House what we were going to be debating today. I would ask that you recess the House for a brief time and bring back a ruling. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the honourable member for Etobicoke West first of all to withdraw the statement about misleading the House. That's totally unparliamentary and unacceptable.

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Mr Stockwell: With all due respect to you, what I said to you was—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member can't say it indirectly.

Mr Stockwell: What I said was that I don't want to say that to the House.

Interjection: If he withdraws that, it means he did.

Mr Stockwell: That's right. Mr Speaker, to withdraw it means that I do want to say that to the House, and I don't.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I have discussed the situation with the table officers. There has been due notice given. Nothing is out of order at this point, and I would ask the honourable member for Renfrew North to continue with his discussion.

Mr Conway: I just want to say to my colleagues in the opposition that it's going to be a long, hot week or two or three. I don't want to be too hectoring on this subject, but I simply say, remember with whom you're dealing, you're dealing with David Cooke, and if you think the Marquis of Queensbury rules apply when you're in the ring with David Cooke, you're wrong. You need to protect all parts of your anatomy, and you should not assume that there is going to be fair play. I don't want members to get too excited, because you have to know with whom you're dealing. You're dealing with David Cooke, and all one can expect from David Cooke is all we've ever got from David Cooke, which is what we've got today. That's his signature, that kind of legislative and parliamentary tactic.

There is no doubt what happened here. I understand why the government is anxious to proceed. I guess the only point I want to make is that there are ways in which this can be done. This little trick is probably technically correct, but I say to my friends in the government that they are going to pay disproportionately for this little win today. You'll see what I mean. I'm not here threatening anything outrageous, because I haven't got the energy for that sort of stuff any more and I don't have much interest in it either, but this place only works if there is a—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member has a point of order. The honourable member for Mississauga West.

Mr Mahoney: I'm sorry to interrupt my colleague the member for Renfrew North because he's doing such an excellent job, but I really feel awfully compelled to raise a question with you, sir.

You've been informed on the previous point of order, referred to as under sections 53 by my colleague, and 51, 50 and 49 by myself, that everything was filed in a timely fashion. So I'm interpreting that to mean that the table officer has told you that 51 was complied with, which would mean that the notice required under the standing orders were indeed laid on the table or filed with the clerk of the House before 5 o'clock on Thursday. You didn't give us that explanation, but that's the only assumption I can arrive at as a result of your ruling.

If that is the case, then clearly what you are being advised and what you are telling us is that the House leader, prior to 5 o'clock on Thursday, when the House was still in session, without any discussion with my House leader or the House leader of the third party or indeed with anyone, without any discussion of this, that the House leader filed the documentation with the clerk so as to comply with this section under the standing order.

I guess my question and my point of order would be for you to consider what is the purpose of these standing

orders. I've looked for some definition at the beginning, hoping that it might say that these orders are in some way intended to guide the conduct of the members in this place, or the government in this place, or anybody; that they are here to provide some guidelines for members to follow, and that all notices in all sections under these standing orders would be for the benefit of the members. I would expect that they are here to govern us as members and would be for our benefit. My point of order and question for your to consider—

The Acting Speaker: No. I'd ask the honourable member to sit down for a moment and let me say a couple of things. The first thing is—

Mr Elston: Nobody told you to sit down the in middle of your sermons. Give him a chance.

The Acting Speaker: Actually, some people did, but that's another point. Hold on. My understanding is that you're talking about what was ruled upon, are you not?

Mr Mahoney: No.

The Acting Speaker: This is a totally different point of order?

Mr Mahoney: Yes.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry, then. I apologize. Please continue.

Mr Mahoney: What I'm asking you to consider and to inform this House is whether or not our privileges are violated. While the House leader may have followed the rules to the letter, I'm suggesting that the unwritten rule that goes along with the written rule, the reason section 51 is there, is for the benefit of the members who must conduct business in this Legislature.

Surely to goodness, with due respect, it's not for the benefit of the Clerk or the table officers. It's for the benefit of the members. The reason you would file prior to 5 o'clock with the Clerk a notice of motion or lay on the table prior to 5 o'clock a notice of motion one day prior to the day it will become a printed part of the record in this place, the reason you do it, while it is not stated in exact terms, is to inform the members of this Legislature what business is going to take place. Surely to goodness, it's not to inform the staff.

Therefore, I believe the point of order and the point of privilege is clearly there in that the House leader simply laid it on the table, muttered something to the Clerk and left, and then the House continued to sit for several hours after that and none of us were made privy to this filing prior to the House leader having it printed in this document. How you could rule otherwise, sir, that our position has not been violated, would be very difficult for me to accept.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the honourable member. I realize this is a very significant issue for the honourable member, but I do want to say that the ruling has been made on that. The minister has done what the minister was expected to do according to the standing orders. There is nothing out of order, and I'd ask the honourable member for Renfrew North to continue.

Mr Eves: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: You have explained in your ruling that the government House leader has complied with standing order 51. I still have yet to hear your ruling on whether the government House leader has complied with standing order 53, which says: "Before the adjournment of the House on each Thursday during the session, the government House leader shall announce the business for the following week."

To me, that means exactly what it says, Mr Speaker. It doesn't mean, "My announcement is, 'Come back on Monday and find out what the business of next week is.'"

It means that before the House adjourns on Thursday, you'll be upfront, honest, and tell the other elected members, if you have any respect for them or this institution at all, what business they will be dealing with in the following week. Did the government House leader do that or not, sir? I'd like a yes or no answer now; otherwise, I think my privileges and every other member of this Legislature's privileges are being impugned.

The Acting Speaker: To the honourable member for Parry Sound, indeed the minister did comply. He indicated what the work would be for the next week at 11:45 in the evening.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Rubbish. A point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Well, I've ruled on that particular point of order. The honourable member for York Mills.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker, I was in the House on Thursday night when the House rose, and I can assure you that if you are receiving some information upon which you are basing your decision that the government House leader gave us the business for the next week, then I'm afraid false information is being conveyed to you. I know that you, Mr Speaker, weren't in the House; therefore you would not be in a position to be able to judge that. On the basis of the fact that it was not presented on Thursday night, I ask you to rule on section 53.

Interjections.

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The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I have indicated that the House leader did make an announcement. That the announcement was not precisely the way the honourable member would like it to be is something—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable minister made an announcement at that time of the evening. He made his announcement. Whether you agree with the content of that announcement or not is quite irrelevant. He indicated what would happen in the next week. That is the ruling of the Chair at this point in time. We'll go on with the debate.

Mr Mahoney: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry; we're not going to continue—

Mr Mahoney: I have another point of order.

The Acting Speaker: On a new point of order, okay.

Mr Mahoney: Mr Speaker, I realize that you're having some difficulty trying to be fair here. I just want to refer you to the Official Report of Debates (Hansard), Thursday 4 June 1992, under the section entitled "Business of the House." This is a quote from Hansard, so I'm sure it's accurate.

"Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Mr Speaker, before I move adjournment of the House, pursuant to standing order 53 I'd like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

"On Monday, June 8, 1992, I will announce the business for Monday, June 8, 1992, and Thursday, June 11."

If you're suggesting that this is proper use of the rules, what he did was stand up on Thursday and say, contrary to the rule—not 53 rather, but 51. He referred to 53; he doesn't even know the rules. In 51 it says he must lay it on the table or file it with the Clerk before 5 on that Thursday. He snuck that in. Then he had to announce in the House what the business will be. Not that he was going to tell us what the business would be on Monday; rather, he knew what the business would be, because you have told us that he was in order and filed the appropriate documentation with the Clerk of this place. He filed it, he knew what the business was going to be and yet he stood up and said, "I'll tell you on Monday what Monday's business will be." If that is not misleading this place, sir, then I don't know what it is. Clearly, with knowledge he had because he had filed the notice, he had the knowledge and he refused to share it with the members.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Mississauga West has made this same point now three times, and he's done it very well, but what I'm trying to say to the honourable member is that there is no point of order, okay? That has been ruled upon. Member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: I want to pick up where I left off by saying that if my friends expect the member for Windsor-Riverside to be honourable in these dealings, I'm sorry, they're going to be disappointed.

Mr Stockwell: He misled us.

Mr Conway: Oh, he's capable of that and infinitely more. Then, like the Pardoner in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, he's prepared to preach about the importance of telling the truth and telling all you know. That's the delicious irony and the delicious paradox that's contained in the government House leader, that like the Pardoner in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, who was the most grasping, mercenary schemer in that wonderful classic, he was of course then prepared to preach about greed, the root of all evil. The Pardoner is a good model for our friend the government House leader.

I guess I should say parenthetically that it was about 18 years ago, about this time of year, that we had a situation in this House where the famous Eric Winkler, the government House leader, did something that was almost more entertaining. I think we used to sit all night then. In the middle of the day, Eric Winkler decided it would really help his case if he printed up a second order paper, and that's exactly what he did. Of course, in the middle of the

night, with the blood alcohol levels in this place being at 0.000, he was found out. I didn't have time to go back and look at the debates, but I can imagine Lewis and MacDonald and Renwick and what they said when Eric Winkler—

I think about that: a government House leader slipping in a second order paper for the day without notice. It's not exactly what the NDP has done here, but my friends over here make a very good point. The whole informing logic of those standing orders is that on the Thursday before the week begins, you tell the members what the business is going to be. The government House leader chose not to do that, though he's quite prepared to take into close confidence Mr Richard Mackie of the *Globe and Mail*, who wrote a most helpful piece in this morning's national newspaper. The article of this morning concludes with a very detailed outline as to precisely what the notice of motion 7 would contain. I know something about the *Globe and Mail* deadlines and I know when Mr Mackie would have had to have that information. I can assure you that it was well before this day, June 8, began.

Enough said about how it is that honourable members came to know what government business was going to be today and what the government thinking around rule changes was likely to mean. I have to let House leaders and opposition whips speak for themselves, but I must say that in my experience it's not considered sufficient notice to simply opine in the newspaper that you'd like to make some changes and have that—

Mr Stockwell: Where is Cooke? Where is he? Get him back in here to defend himself. Where is he? Where are any of your cabinet ministers, for crying out loud? Where are any of your veterans? They should be here.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Etobicoke West, order. The member for Renfrew North has the floor.

Mr Conway: I then turn to the way in which this has been done for purposes of the House itself. There's only one word, I think, to characterize what the government has done, and that word is "unilateralism." Unlike any other time, when in my almost two decades of experience the House decided to begin the process of changing its rules, its standing orders, there was always—sometimes with a little controversy, I might add—an understanding that it was going to be done essentially by a working group made up of representatives of the various political parties in the Legislature. What we have here today is one of the most unilateral measures I can ever remember with respect to effecting rule changes.

Now that, of course, takes me back to 1989. I had, in the brief time today, opportunity to review the Hansard of 1989, at which time I had the great good fortune to have been government House leader and at which time I was confronted with a number of pressures around the place to bring our rules into some advanced sensitivity to developing realities. In early June 1989 I tabled, on behalf of our government, a notice of motion that outlined a number of initiatives we wanted to proceed with in regard to changing the standing orders. I might refresh honourable members' memories as to why we felt we had to do that.

I must say there are members of the NDP not present now who played a very active role in all that. Mike Breugh, a very good friend of mine, long-time NDP MPP for Oshawa and now the NDP MP for Oshawa, was a very moving force in that whole post-1985 movement to bring about some changes to the standing orders and there had been a working group of the political parties concerning the rule changes.

But we had something more than just that working group. We had cases—I mentioned a couple of them not too long ago. I went back to look at some of the Hansards. Toronto Star, April 22, 1988, the headline, "Bell Ringing Highlights Bad Blood at Queen's Park," by William Walker: "The growing acrimony among political parties at Queen's Park could bring business in the Ontario Legislature to a halt. The New Democratic Party of Bob Rae prevented Treasurer Robert Nixon from reading his budget on Wednesday" of that particular week in April 1988—unprecedented.

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In this same article: "The New Democrats, who prevented Treasurer Nixon from reading his budget Wednesday, are now letting the bells run ad infinitum at Queen's Park and they will probably ring through the weekend." They did. "The NDP traded one stalling tactic for another when they ended the reading of their anti-Sunday shopping petitions late yesterday afternoon. The Peterson government then introduced"—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: It gets better. "The Peterson government then introduced its Sunday shopping bill for first reading, but Bob Rae and his NDP colleagues requested"—what?—"a recorded vote on first reading." This is just after they would not let the Treasurer read his budget and let the bells ring for days.

"They came back and allowed first reading of the Sunday shopping legislation. Then they forced a division on first reading. At that point, the Bob Rae-Dave Cooke New Democrats walked out, vowing they would not return until the government agreed to province-wide public hearings this summer." That was April 1988. That was what Mr Cooke and Mr Rae, among others, were up to.

When I, as government House leader at the time, indicated that these tactics were increasingly unacceptable, and I think most people who viewed them saw them as such—now it's interesting to hear no less a personage than the member for Windsor-Riverside say he doesn't like divisions on first reading—

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Yorkview will come to order.

Mr Conway: Mr Cooke said—

The Acting Speaker: On a point of order, the honourable member for Ottawa West.

Mr Chiarelli: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want to refer to standing order 23(m). It reads as follows, concerning the conduct of members in the House, that they're not permitted to introduce "any matter in debate that in the

opinion of the Speaker offends the practices and precedents of the House."

My point very briefly is this: We have a government House leader who discloses surreptitiously to the media a notice of motion in this House. He introduces it secretly and privately with the Clerk. Then he stands in this House at 11:30 or 11:40 pm and says what the order of business will be the following day and refuses to refer to the matter that he has filed, released to the press, knows will be published to the world and that he keeps from the members of this Legislature.

I believe there is a serious breach of standing order 23(m), given the conduct of this particular member inside and outside the Legislature, preparing a notice of motion, releasing it to the Globe and Mail on Thursday, filing it with the Clerk at 5 pm, indicating that's what the business will be on Monday, and then standing in his place here on Thursday evening at 11:30 and not disclosing that information to this House.

Mr Speaker, if you read the words of standing order 23(m), I cannot help but think you will agree with me that this is a matter which offends the practices of this Legislature, and I would ask you please to reserve your ruling on this point. I think it is significant enough that you exercise caution and care and reserve your decision on this particular point of order.

The Acting Speaker: As I've indicated before to the honourable member and to the House, the honourable minister did what was expected of him in regard to the standing orders. There is nothing out of order. I'd ask the member for Renfrew North to continue.

Mr Chiarelli: I'm talking about 23(m).

The Acting Speaker: That's correct.

Mr Conway: Then in the 1988 experience, we saw the NDP refuse the government the right to present the budget. We saw the NDP divide on first reading of the Sunday shopping legislation and walk out for days on end. We had bells. We had petitions. Rae, Reville, Cooke and Kormos put on quite a show in 1988.

I thought it was interesting—and I accept my responsibilities and some measure of the blame—that David Cooke was grouching in the press then that he was really unhappy because Conway had reneged on an agreement to fund NDP opposition staff. I find, with my friend Mr Cooke, that most things at the end of the day are a perk and money question, and that's what he confessed in that particular interview to be a part of his driving motivation.

Then we get into 1989. Oh, boy, was that interesting. We had the contretemps around the Solicitor General, and did all hell break loose, Mr Speaker. Joan Smith had gone to the police station in Lucan in the middle of the night. I'm not going to engage in that debate again, except to say that Bob Rae was something. When I hear the new member for London Centre talk about the need for a kinder, more gentle lexicon, when I saw the salivating Bob Rae on the attack when it came to Joan Smith and Elinor Caplan and Chaviva Hošek and Lily Munro, I tell you, he drooled, Mr Speaker. The fangs were out. There was absolutely no kindness, no gentleness. It was a carnivore on the prowl.

Oh, he was something. Part of the indignation was, "I, Bob Rae, with the help of my acolyte, Mr Cooke, will grind this place to a total halt," and that's what they did.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): Why didn't you change the rules?

Mr Conway: Of course we did. But you see, I want my friends to understand the context, which I'm going to return to very shortly.

The Acting Speaker: I'd ask the honourable member for Renfrew North to please address the Chair.

Mr Conway: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want them to understand why we got the reforms of 1989. We got them because the New Democrats, in the main, read petitions endlessly. They called people liars to get bells ringing and walked out and let them ring for days. They wouldn't let people introduce budgets. You talk about not getting your legislation, Mr Speaker; Bob Rae wouldn't let the government introduce a budget. If that's not fascistic, I don't know what is. I consider that fascistic. I would object if anybody else did it as well.

Then the NDP in opposition said, "We're not going to allow interim supply." Bells rang. The Treasurer had to announce that people were not going to get transfers because we could not get control of the chamber. It went on and on and on.

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So it was in June 1989 that I brought forward a government notice of motion and put it on the order paper. As I remember, it had a number of provisions. Those provisions essentially ended bell-ringing, which I think we all privately agreed with. They put a limit on petition-reading, they changed the process around emergency debates and provided for a number of opposition days, and they provided for a number of other things.

I tell you, my friends in the NDP—I can still see Richard Johnston, the sainted Richard Johnston, now struggling with his minor per diem at the chairmanship of the—

Mr Stockwell: Minor?

Mr Conway: What's \$125,000? It's minor to Marc Eliesen. It's peanuts.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): Or Andy Brandt.

Mr Conway: Or Andy Brandt, absolutely. But I've got to tell you, my friends opposite, when it comes to the old trough—and if I represented Whitevale, I'd be looking at the patronage list. I tell you, I'd be looking at the patronage list right this instant.

But what I did in that debate in 1989 was table a government notice of motion that contained a number of proposals and said the government was prepared to talk. But I remember that day in 1989. Where my friend the member for Quinte is now seated Richard Johnston literally lunged out of his seat to denounce and decry what I had done.

Mr Hope: A bit like Jim Bradley today.

Mr Conway: Yes, a version of Bradley today, and it was probably even more expansive, even more explosive. What the government then did was put the motion forward and say, "Let's talk." But let me just tell you about what

happened that day and a few days later. It was June 8, 1989, and—

Mr Mahoney: Happy anniversary.

Mr Conway: It is the anniversary. Thank you very much. Happy anniversary. It was June 8, 1989. On the motion of myself for changes to the standing orders, Mr David S. Cooke, member for Windsor-Riverside: "I have a question to the government House leader about"—get this—"his unilateral" motion, a motion that I put down and said we wouldn't proceed with until there had been an opportunity to discuss, to amend and to add in ways that we thought we could, based on the good work of the standing committee.

What have we got today? We've got no such commitment. We've had a dastardly, cowardly act, characteristic of the honourable gentleman who proposed it, which offers no opportunity for the kind of input that I think we could have and should have on the kind of changes that I think are in some respects timely. Oh, no, the man today who came, who offered and who skulked out of here behind his shamefaced leader, three years ago when I put the Peterson government motion respecting rule changes—and it was just a motion that we were tabling for discussion—had a question about all of this.

"I would like to ask the government House leader," said David Cooke, "does he not understand that on the two issues he is so concerned about—the Sunday shopping issue where this party and this opposition used the rules in this Legislature to hold the government accountable because the Liberals said one thing during the election and then deliberately did the opposite after they got their arrogant majority, and on the Smith issue where they would not have accepted the responsibility for her inappropriate interference with the process of justice in this province if we had not used the tactics we did—by removing the ability of the opposition to hold the government accountable, he is making"—with these proposed changes—"this place less accountable to the public and less democratic?"

Mrs Caplan: Who said that?

Mr Conway: That was the view three years ago this day of Mr Consistency, Mr Piety, Mr Purity, David Cooke himself.

Then, of course, we had the apoplectic observations of the member for Scarborough West, Mr Richard Johnston, who of course went on at great length talking about what a black day it was for democracy.

I just say to my friends that they were appalled three years ago because of a government notice of motion which was put on the order paper and not called for weeks, as it were, and a good group of people got to work.

I will admit that our intention in that particular motion was to focus the mind and to say to the opposition that we could endure the obstructionism of the day no longer. We proceeded in the course of the intervening six weeks, between early June of 1989 and that day on the 25th of July, 1989, when the new standing orders were adopted, to find a very real, meaningful and significant consensus for which people like Mr Breaugh, Mr Reycraft and Mr Eves, among others, were very responsible.

But it was argued at the time as arrogant and insensitive, and most of all it was objectionable, because I looked like I was going to move unilaterally.

What do we have today? Isn't it interesting, what Mr Cooke said three years ago?

Mr McLean: What did he say?

Mr Conway: He said: "You know, we are justified in doing anything to object"—and I mean literally anything—"to the Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act policy that the Peterson government is proposing, because it is a policy at variance with what the Peterson Liberals suggested or didn't talk about in the 1987 electoral campaign. And we can do anything, anything at all, because we think Joan Smith should resign for what she did."

When I say, "They wanted to do anything"—they did anything, much of it unprecedented in the annals of this Legislature. If I took that logic and applied it, for example, to Bob Rae's new policy on the common pause day or if I took Mr Cooke's logic of three years ago today and applied it to the Martel affair, I guess I would be justified in doing just about anything.

Of course, I haven't done that. I have been vigorous, I have been pointed and I have been perhaps a bit overdone in some of my criticisms around Ms Martel and others, but I'm going to tell you that I promise you this: I will not do—nor will I attempt to justify those kinds of tactics—what Bob Rae and Dave Cooke did in the Joan Smith affair or what they did about the so-called Liberal reversal on the Sunday shopping policy of 1989.

But you see, there is a record. It is quite a rich record in respect of what Mr Cooke and others said. Let me just add a little bit of what Mr Johnston said that day in June of 1989. This is all context for what you've done today, because I think new members ought to understand that traditionally the New Democrats have argued that there will not be any acceptable change to the standing orders that is not worked out by agreement among the three parties. That was the sine qua non of change to the standing orders, and that was a sacred and high principle of all NDP House leaders since I was elected 17 years ago, and that includes people like Elie Martel and, yes, the sainted and very shy Ross McClellan.

1730

Now today, you see, we have a brazen, dastardly, cowardly act of unilateralism and a Chicken Little government House leader who won't even stick around to defend the absolute contradiction of what he does in government vis-à-vis what his position in the opposition just a few short years ago was.

I understand, by the way, how the discipline of power amends one's perspective. I'm not one of these people who expects that you're going to be able, in many ways, to do precisely what you promised to do, because those are the realities of government, but I would have thought that on the standing orders you could have been true to your past word and your past principle.

Richard Johnston, a front-bench New Democrat, June 8, 1989, said: "Mr Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader, and my question concerns the uni-

lateral act by which the Peterson cabinet decided what the rules of this House and its elected people should be. In my view, these proposals are reminiscent of a Family Compact style. Members on the other side of the government should always remember that government should act in Parliament as if it will be in opposition some day"—should always remember that.

Would you listen to this: "If this is not a punitive act because of successes we have had using the rules that exist, why did the government House leader not bring in the countervailing proposals that have been suggested by committees of this House, agreed to by all parties, which he has down in writing? Why did he not bring in any of those but only a list of punitive acts directed at the opposition?"

You see, my friend Johnston had a good point there. It was not my intention to end the discussion or the changes around just what was on government notice of motion 5 in June 1989. I would never in my wildest imaginings have thought to have marched in and called my motion the day I introduced it. It would have been totally inflammatory. It was inflammatory enough just to put it on the order paper and leave it for a few days.

And my friend, my happy, dear, honourable friend the member for Windsor-Riverside, then indulged in a very gentlemanly observation about how I had done this on the day David Rae was to be buried. Oh, that was so nice. That was such a sweet touch. My friend David Cooke just is so generous. You people expect the Marquis of Queensbury? I ask you. He actually got up and observed that I had—he didn't say it in so many words, but he essentially said, "Conway waited, almost, for David Rae's funeral," and that was the day I chose to introduce government notice of motion 5.

Boy, I've done some bad things around here and I've angered some people, but I think most people who've dealt with me know that that's not the way I operate. I'll tell you, I will never forget that day, and it taught me a lot about my relations with the government House leader. I thought that day, "Can you imagine saying that?" It was just about as disgusting and as subterranean an observation as I've ever experienced.

I apologized if that was anybody's imagining of my intent, but that was David Cooke three years ago. That was the kind of offering he had, I repeat, to a notice of motion I wasn't going to call and said I would not call for some time. I was hopeful that we were going to have a good discussion around the Breaugh report. We did, and six weeks later the package was unanimously agreed to with a variety of additional components added thereto.

I want you, my friends, to look back at those debates, not that anybody—I mean, why would I bother? Nobody cares. But it's interesting to look back at what was said.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I care.

Mr Conway: The member for Yorkview says he cares. I hope he does. I know this business of standing orders and rules is not of great interest to most people. I suspect most people looking on would wonder what this arcane discussion is all about. "Aren't those people elected to do the public's business? Let them get on with it."

But you can understand how it is that we have some difficulty with the government strategy, as it was brought in under cover of darkness with no notice, with no commitment to do what was done in 1989, to say, "We are serious."

I repeat that you will find me, speaking for myself, a willing partner in some of these rule changes. I'm probably one of the real windbags of this place—there's no "probably" about it; I am—and I can accept some of the sanctions that will probably be targeted at me. That, to me, is not the point. The point is a style, is a consensus.

You can see what's happened here today. I'm sure some of my friends opposite are wondering, "What's this fuss all about?" The member for Cochrane North nods his head and says "Yes, I wonder what this is all about." It's about balance. It's about consultation. It's about memory.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: I don't know what the problem with my friend the minister of consumer affairs is, because, I repeat, over the years we've had in this chamber a process by which rules are changed consensually. If what you're telling me—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: I shouldn't be so patronizing?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Order, please. There are many interjections and of course they are out of order. I would like the honourable member for Renfrew North to address his remarks to the Chair. It would avoid a lot of confusion.

Mr Conway: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would just ask members to go and read the Hansard of July 25, 1989, to see the result of that six-week process that led to the significant changes of 1989. Most of us haven't had a chance to look at it, because of course this surprise attack today was without notice—that's what surprise attacks are all about—but it is very interesting to see what my friends opposite had to say at the time, and I'm going to return to this a little later.

I simply remind honourable members that we got the change. It was more expansive than appeared possible in early June 1989. I learned some important lessons and I understood that if we were going to have a reasonable movement forward there had to be support of some kind from the opposition parties.

What do we have today? We have had dropped in the press gallery quite a voluminous package from the government House leader. I don't know how many of you have had a chance to read it, but I'm going to read some of the press release.

"Government House leader David Cooke will introduce a motion in the Legislature today to reform the rules of the House so that important public business can get the attention it deserves."

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Quoting the illustrious government House leader: "I think most people would acknowledge that the Ontario Legislature does not work very well. Our rules are antiquated, allowing

the opposition to eat up valuable time and tax dollars while important public business waits."

Mr Cooke is flatly contradicting himself of three years ago. Mr Speaker, I can't describe that quote for what it is, but I ask you to look at Mr Cooke of June 8, 1992, and read Mr Cooke of June 8, 1989. If you want to see elasticity in position, if you want to see variability in presenting the facts, if you want to see a nose growing as I speak, you just read what he said three years ago and you read what is offered in this package today.

I ask my friends opposite, and I come from a position of quite considerable willingness, to change some of these rules. In fact the irony for me is that there are things in this package which I was interested in to spend some time talking about three years ago. There was no restraining device known to man to contain my friends in the NDP at the mere mention of some of these ideas.

Now, three years later, I get my dear friend in consistency and truth, the government House leader, saying: "I think most people will acknowledge that the Legislature does not work very well. Our rules are antiquated. The opposition eats up too much valuable time, and tax dollars are wasted while important public business waits."

That is not true, I would submit. I know, as some people would want me to observe, that there are some debates that go on too long, and I'm quite prepared to look at constraining some of that.

Mr Winner: Your time's up.

Mr Conway: My time's up. Well, I'm here for a reason and a purpose today. If you haven't understood it, then you will before the end of the day.

So our rules, recently adjusted, recently amended, are now very antiquated and they're not doing the job that they were supposed to do. Well, I'm going to let others in this debate, particularly the House leaders, the members for Bruce and Parry Sound, the whips, the members for Mississauga West and London North, advance more particularly their analysis of what's been on the docket.

I just saw a list the other day, I think it was Thursday morning, and what really impressed me as a former House leader was that there were substantive items that were on the "must have" list last Wednesday or Thursday that had not yet been introduced. Whose fault is that?

Mr Cooke of battle fame, 1989, goes on in this presentation to observe that the nasty opposition has been using the rules to examine, and in some cases to delay, government legislation—and he's right.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I've had an opportunity to look through the proposals by the government and I would submit that although they may not offend the standing orders per se, they in fact fly in the face of the whole purpose of freedom of speech in Parliament. Not only do they do that, but they deny a very significant principle of English justice, that you must hear the other side.

By trying to limit debate to 30 minutes, they are in fact trammelling the very fundamental English tradition of Parliament that you are to hear the other side. In addition to that, they're trammelling the very purpose of Parliament. I

suggest that is a clear denial of all the privileges of the members of this House and therefore is totally out of order and is a breach of our privileges collectively.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The point of order has been addressed previously and it is in order. The honourable member for Renfrew North has the floor and may proceed.

Mr Conway: I was looking, in the brief hiatus, at a memorandum provided by the opposition House leader's office in respect of government business. I'm reminded again of some facts I think should be submitted to the Legislature this afternoon having regard to the stated concerns of the government in respect of not getting much business done, in this session particularly.

The points that have to be made and underlined are again some that have been made previously. For whatever reason, the government was three weeks late in meeting the House this spring. So here we sit in early June and obviously we've had fewer days than normal because the government could not meet the timetable contained in the revised rules of 1989.

I say to my friends opposite, whose idea was it to delay the opening of the Legislature from around March 12 to April 6? That's three weeks as I understand it: 12 or 15 sitting days. That, it seems to me, is your responsibility, not mine.

We have as well the priority bills. I was just looking. There were nine priority items on the House leader's list of just a very few days ago that hadn't been introduced yet. I can remember going to those House leaders' meetings in the days when Mr Cooke and Mr Rae were in the opposition and they would just laugh at me if I did not provide all kinds of time so the NDP caucus could deliberate over minor and major bills.

I used to operate on the basis that I had to give the NDP a minimum of 10 days' notice. Otherwise they would just laugh at me. The standard line at the House leaders' meeting was, "We haven't caucused that." I can tell the government House leader, "Don't even bother calling it for two weeks." If I knew it was good for me, I wouldn't poke or provoke the bears, because it was a sacred principle with the NDP that there had to be a full and frank caucus discussion.

Now, of course, we have as recently as last week nine priority items that haven't been introduced as of June 4 and now we have Monday, June 8, a first order requirement that all of this stuff be dealt with and isn't it terrible that the opposition is obstructing the government's business. The reality is we've had the shortest spring session in recent memory because the Rae government couldn't get its act together or wouldn't face the House until early April instead of early March. It has had major pieces of legislation hung up in various cabinet committees or wherever and, as we saw last week, the Labour Relations Amendment Act offered to the House three weeks before we would normally adjourn for the summer recess.

The chutzpah of the NDP House leader to say, "The opposition is tying up government business"—of course, for my friends in the third party, we have Mr Cooke going

on, lamenting in his press release today, "that terrible Conservative filibuster on the 1991 Laughren budget." I think that filibuster was an active debate. I don't remember the kind of jackboot tactics of 1988 employed by the NDP. I think the budget debate took something like 10 or 11 days. That now is a filibuster to be bitterly complained about.

This was another one I liked in the press announcement today, quoting the sainted and the very pure Mr Cooke from his press release today. "For the first time in the history of the Ontario Legislature, the House was dealing with 1991 tax bills a full year after they were introduced."

Mr Elston: That's not true.

Mr Conway: I don't think that's true either. I haven't had a chance to look at it, but I bet you I can prove we've had cases here in the last 25 years where the Legislature was dealing a full year after with budget bills that belonged in the previous cycle, but I didn't see that anywhere in the announcement.

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Mr Elston: The aviation fuel bill from our Parliament.

Mr Conway: My friend the opposition House leader says the aviation fuel bill from a few years ago is one example which would put the lie to that observation.

I was looking at that quote and wondering why in Mr Cooke's announcement today it didn't have a quote saying, "For the first time in the history of the Ontario Legislature, the opposition"—namely, the Bob Rae, Dave Cooke, NDP opposition—"went to the outrageous, outlandish, undemocratic extent as was done in 1988 to deny the Treasurer the right to present a budget." But no, it was missed for some reason.

We go on to some of the particulars of the proposal, and I think it's very useful for my friend the government House leader. He wants to see an end of gamesmanship.

Mr Stockwell: By filing a notice and not telling anybody?

Mr Conway: You carping oppositionist. How could you call that gamesmanship? This is what I like about my friends in the opposition. "If we New Democrats do a dastardly deed but in a good cause, it's all right."

Mrs Caplan: That's Bob Rae's Ontario.

Mr Conway: Bob Rae's Ontario is: "Joan Smith was bad, but Shelley Martel was okay in her slander because the objective was right. There was a doctor attacking a very sacred and sainted government policy." As I said, if we had taken the NDP approach to the rules and applied it to the Martel case, Dave Cooke and Bob Rae would really have something to worry about, but honourable members on this side have given a commitment that we will not stoop to such low levels as were stooped to by the NDP in 1988 and 1989.

The government House leader says he wants an end of gamesmanship. He wants an end of headline-grabbing tactics. So I hope Rick Mackie is going to recant in tomorrow's paper for the headline-grabbing tactic that must embarrass the two of them, Mr Cooke and Mr Mackie.

It's interesting to look at some of the proposals we have in this package. I couldn't resist, and I haven't had much time to prepare this, but I see the NDP government wants to make better use of sitting Monday and Tuesday evenings. The government wants to make better use of Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Let me just say this: For years, Elie Martel and Ross McClellan would go to the wall saying, "Let's get rid of night sittings." If I heard it once, I heard it a thousand times: "Get away from night sittings. They are anti-family. They are unproductive. They are sometimes"—

God, should I recall that famous night in about 1984 when my friend Elie Walter Martel lay before me as a very classic example of what's wrong with night sittings? I won't forget that night. I can remember the vigorous dispatch of Bob Rae when he came to minister to his fallen colleague. I can remember the helpfulness of Bob Elgie, who saved the night. I can remember the parting shot between Elie Walter Martel and the Honourable Nick Leluk, culture czar for the Tory government, sitting in that seat over there. I tell you, that night Elie Martel made the case as to why we ought to end night sittings.

And Ross McClellan, now major-domo in the Bob Rae Premier's office, said on April 28, 1986, in commenting about rule changes: "I am especially pleased"—as NDP House leader—"that after so long a time we are abolishing evening sittings, which are a relic from the days when the Legislature met two or three weeks or a month per year and people had regular, full-time occupations. The attempt was to get the legislative session over and done with as quickly as possible." Ross McClellan joined the chorus of New Democrats who said hallelujah to an end to night sittings.

Now we have that nocturnal acolyte, the government House leader, slinking in here and thinking that none of us remembers that it would be a very good thing to end night sittings. I repeat that just a few short years ago it was the NDP's position that it was anti-family, that it was unproductive and that it was part of an end of a government agenda to ram the public's business through in a way that didn't afford the opposition opportunity to exact appropriate levels of accountability.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I notice that of the government members present in this House at this precise moment there is absolutely no one who was in this House prior to 1990 who would have any understanding of the examples the honourable member—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Mississauga South does not have a point of order. We will proceed.

Mr Conway: I'm going to conclude my remarks this afternoon in this part of the debate by saying that I was exercised today in my exchange with the leader of the government and becoming more exercised. You see, whether it's the common pause day, whether it's public auto insurance, whether it's casino gambling or whether it's unilateralism in changing the standing orders, the Bob Rae world of New Democracy seems to be forgetting its past principles, its past attitudes and its past approaches.

I referred today to that article or that interview of a few weeks ago, when Mel Swart was telling Rick Brennan of the Windsor Star, as he did on May 15, 1992—he now seems to be almost embarrassed that he nominated Bob Rae as the leader of the NDP 10 years ago because my old friend Mel Swart believed that Bob Rae was a man of principle, that what Bob Rae said, Bob Rae meant. I simply want to observe that we have in government notice of motion 7 another example where Bob Rae's principles and the principles of the NDP—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Welland-Thorold on a point of order.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know Mel really well and I speak with him regularly. He'd be real offended to be identified as one of Sean Conway's friends.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. That's not a point of order.

Mr Conway: He might be. All I know is that I was here for many good years with Mel Swart and we had some very good work together. I know that Mel Swart told Rick Brennan but three weeks ago that he's not at all sure that Bob Rae has the fortitude, has what it takes to be a good NDP Premier, because Mel Swart has observed that Bob Rae, since taking office 21 months ago, has apparently lost his way and lost his conviction.

I just want to say that government notice of motion 7 is another vivid and clear example, about the fifth in this session, where Bob Rae, Dave Cooke and the NDP caucus in this Legislature have forgotten, traded in, run away from or completely thrown out the window core values and central principles that they stood by and fought for for years and decades in this place.

With that observation, I will adjourn the debate.

The Acting Speaker: It now being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9, at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 9 June 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 9 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 9 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by members?

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I don't think the government is fulfilling its obligation to maintain a quorum in the House.

The Speaker: Would the Clerk count, please.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is not present.

The Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1334

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: A quorum is now present.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): I rise today—and it's interesting that on the day I rise there's no quorum in the House for the government. In any event, I rise to raise a hue and cry against the possibility of this NDP government attempting to stifle speech in this House, the very basis upon which parliamentary democracy is raised.

The backbenchers in the government perhaps don't realize that in fact this may have an impact on their ability to be able to serve properly the needs of their constituents. Thirty minutes now, next week 15, perhaps the week after no backbenchers will be allowed to speak.

In fact one expects to see that only in societies that are repressive, that have the jackboots and the tanks rolling into town. The tanks and the jackboots haven't rolled into town yet, but I wonder if the press, in the days when the jackboots and the tanks did roll into town, remained silent, as it does today, about eliminating or reducing the most fundamental item that's required in a Parliament, the right of free speech.

They're putting limits on this. This in fact is eliminating the effectiveness of all of us in this House, particularly the backbenchers, who now can't speak out against anything, since they seem to rise on every vote as though they're joined at the hip.

WOODLOTS

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Minister of Natural Resources and it concerns what local writers are saying about his proposed changes to the Ontario Trees Act that would take control of farmers' woodlots.

In his column, Harvie's Hats, Harvie Johnstone writes:

"If bureaucrats tried to get away with it during the winter or any off-season, they'd face an awful mess of pitchforks on Queen's Park steps. Few farmers, busy with first haying and other activities, will have a say before the ministry shuts off griping time on June 19."

"Put it this way: Suppose some busybody rapped on your door and announced you had no permit to cut down a tree which you'd earmarked to help keep your family cosy next winter. You'd unchain your hungriest mongrel. 'Sic 'em, boy,' and that would be that.

"Would you have believed 20 years ago—heck, five years ago—ah, would you believe even a month ago, that the Ministry of Natural Resources wanted to require you to get a permit to cut down a tree—on your own property?

"This is the same ministry that earlier this spring launched a giant campaign to encourage land owners to buy 300 saplings for \$46 and the ministry would throw in as many more as wanted—free. A great deal!

"This is the same ministry that a month later announced closure of a couple of tree nurseries, including Midhurst near Barrie. Not a great deal!

"So now this same ministry wants a thumb on those freshly painted trees, as well as other trees on your land. A bad, very bad, deal!

"Beware farmers: Big Brother may require that you get a permit to cut your lettuce next!"

This is a chip off the old block.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I rise today to inform the House of the extraordinary efforts of Mr Jim Green, a resident of Smithville in my riding of Lincoln. Mr Green has been participating in the environmental assessment hearings that are considering a proposal by the Ontario Waste Management Corp to build a giant, centralized toxic waste treatment facility in my riding of Lincoln.

Mr Green has spent countless hours of his own time at these hearings because he is concerned about the impact of hazardous conditions arising from emergencies associated with the proposed hazardous waste treatment plant. He wants to be assured that all precautions are in place before the plant is started up. He has recently prepared a report for the hearing board that summarizes his research and his findings.

Last week I circulated copies of Mr Green's report to all cabinet members and to the opposition Environment critics. I'm asking them today to read Mr Green's report and to respond to him with their comments.

Mr Green was recently recognized by his fellow citizens of the township of West Lincoln and was named citizen of the year, an honour he clearly deserves.

I agree with Mr Green wholeheartedly that public safety must be the top priority when planning waste management strategies. There is no room for compromise here. As I've stated many times in the past, my position on the OWMC is clear. I oppose the construction of this kind of facility on any scale. I have made a promise to the people of Lincoln and I intend to do everything in my power to see that this proposal is denied.

TIMISKAMING BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): In early March I met with the Timiskaming Board of Education, the Timiskaming Municipal Association and representatives of the teachers' federation regarding the problems the school board was facing in our area both this year and for upcoming years. At this meeting I was asked to set up a meeting for these representatives with the Minister of Education to discuss these problems.

On March 9, 1992, I wrote to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Tony Silipo, to make that request. On April 21, 1992, I wrote again with the same request. So far I have not received an acknowledgement or a date for this meeting. My office contacted his office on numerous occasions, the last time being May 26 of this year. At that time I was told that a meeting would most likely not occur until the fall, but so far still no date.

The Timiskaming board is facing serious financial problems. They have had to lay off 28 teachers' aides, 15 teachers and six office staff. The numbers may not be as great, but the percentages are as great as any of the layoffs in southern Ontario.

The parents are very upset about the lack of action from the minister's office. I have lately received numerous letters from concerned parents on this subject which I will be sending over today to the minister.

I am urging that the minister set up a meeting with the representatives of the school board, the Timiskaming Municipal Association and the representatives from the teachers' federation immediately.

This is a very serious matter. We are dealing with the future of our children. Nothing is more important in this day and age.

1340

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): From November 1991 to March of this year I have been distributing, in person, several hundred small business surveys in my riding of Wellington. I've received 161 responses. The results have been tabulated and I think the responses send a clear message that there is little investor or consumer confidence in this government's economic policies.

Of the small business people polled, 98% are against the government's proposal to amend the Labour Relations Act, 98% are concerned about the Ontario economy's ability to withstand additional taxes and 90% are opposed to the concept of employment equity which would allow the government to dictate job hiring quotas within the private sector.

It's time that this government, which prides itself on being a government of consultation, starts listening to the concerns of the small business community, which is such an important component of Ontario's economy.

I'd like to read a few of the comments from the respondents:

"The government needs to do a 180-degree turn to create an awareness that industry is welcome here and that they are on an equal footing."

"The government is putting us all out of business."

"This government is displaying a blatant disregard for fiscal and financial responsibility."

The messages from the small business community in my riding are clear, and I am certain that the mood reflected in this survey mirrors the mood of small businesses all across Ontario. Unless the provincial government changes its present destructive course, consumer and business confidence will be further eroded and there will be no hope for economic improvement and job creation over the summer.

APPRECIATION

Mr Tony Rizzo (Oakwood): It is a great pleasure and an honour to be here today and able to stand up and speak on behalf of my constituents of Oakwood. It is a great pleasure also to be able to thank all the friends who helped me through all these 18 very long months, especially members of my family and the members of my party.

I learned a lot during those 18 months and I think I acquired some kind of experience that was missing in this House. Being independent and being able to watch the work of all the other caucuses from outside, and also out of my own caucus, has given me something that I was never able to acquire without going through this personally.

It is with emotion that I want to be able to thank again all the people who elected me, who put their trust in me and who always believed in what I was saying to them. I want to be able to cooperate. As a matter of fact, I was also able to make a submission to a standing committee to change the rules of the House so that any future independent members will be able to represent fully the people who elect them to this place.

I hope I'm going to get the cooperation of all the members of the House. I will be cooperating with my caucus, the government and this House, of course, from now on.

BROCK UNIVERSITY ATHLETES

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Brock University has established an outstanding reputation as an academic institution and has now extended that reputation into the field of athletics.

This year, 1991-92, the Brock University men's basketball team won both the Ontario and national championships, the first being held at the University of Waterloo here in the province of Ontario, the second at the civic centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They've brought considerable pride to the city of St Catharines, to the province of Ontario and, of course, to the university system throughout Canada.

The Brock wrestling team won the university's first Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union championship two weeks after winning its first Ontario wrestling championship. Brock wrestlers outpinned the defending champions, the University of Manitoba Bisons, 29 to 24 during the CIAU finals on Friday, February 28, and Saturday, February 29, 1992, at Brock University.

The team qualified eight members for the tournament and seven made the final round. All seven won medals. Richard Deschatelets, who was selected the CIAU coach of the year, was justifiably proud of his wrestling team.

Marty Calder, Luke Collison, Aaron Pomeroy, John Matile, Donovan Young, Brent Beauparlant and Dave Knowles won the outstanding medals in that particular tournament.

Congratulations to Brock University, both teams.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): As members will know, constituents in my riding of Grey are very interested in what goes on in the world around them. This attitude is exemplified by people like Bill Snarr of Durham and Jim Welch of Markdale, who were so concerned about illegal drug use, especially by our young people, that they formed a group called Grandparents Against Drug Abuse.

This association is an offshoot of drug awareness programs started by local Optimist clubs and it now operates in 12 communities in Grey and Bruce. They set up information booths in malls in both counties and thus far have petitions signed by more than 1,000 concerned citizens that ask for maximum sentences for those convicted of drug violations.

I realize that under our judicial system judges cannot receive direction from any level of government. I also understand it is federal, not provincial, crown attorneys who prosecute and present evidence in drug cases. Nevertheless, I feel it is important that both the Solicitor General and the Attorney General are aware of the strong feelings expressed by this group and by those who care enough to sign these petitions. They have a deep commitment to address and cure what has become one of society's greatest ills.

I commend Optimist clubs everywhere, and in particular the Grey and Bruce organization of Grandparents Against Drug Abuse, for bringing this concern to public attention and for doing what they can to combat this serious problem.

CONTROL OF SMOKING

Mr Tony Martin (Sault Ste Marie): Last week in my riding I participated in a very important function with students and professionals from across the Algoma district, including Sault Ste Marie. We discussed tobacco and its effects on people and our environment.

This was all part of a larger campaign called Give Kids a Chance. The intention of this campaign is to discourage the use of tobacco, particularly among younger people. They are asking the provincial government and the Ministry of Health for help in promoting their program of not smoking. I have close to 2,000 signatures from supporters of this campaign in the Sault Ste Marie riding. I will personally present them to the Minister of Health.

This group is sending out a strong message to publicly educate us, focusing on children, regarding smoking and its numerous hazards. This campaign concentrates on prevention rather than smoking cessation. We need to look out for our children's future, knowing that smoking is not a healthy choice.

I congratulate those who are taking part in this campaign and I invite all of you, as concerned colleagues, to support it.

1350

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TRANSPORTS EN COMMUN

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): Our government believes that all residents of Ontario have the democratic right to accessible and convenient public transit. Fully accessible transit is our long-term goal.

This means simply that we are working to make all transit systems accessible to people with disabilities and to elderly and frail people. "Accessible" also means making transportation convenient for the passenger.

Monsieur le Président, la population de l'Ontario veut et exige des transports en commun fiables. Des personnes de toutes les conditions sociales utilisent les systèmes de transport en commun de notre province. Pour plusieurs, ce service de transport en commun est le seul moyen pour se rendre au travail ou à l'école ou pour emmener leurs enfants à la garderie.

Today I wish to inform the members of the House of the adoption of a new policy to implement fully accessible transit services. We want transit operators to work with us towards our goal of an integrated family of transit services for people with and without disabilities.

I am pleased to announce today that all new transit buses purchased or leased by transit operators after July 1, 1993, must be equipped with both low floors and features to allow access to a broader range of users. Only low-floor buses meeting provincial standards will be eligible for funding from the Ministry of Transportation's municipal transfer payments. Also, all new transit terminals must be made fully accessible to qualify for a subsidy.

We recognize that each municipality has unique needs when it comes to public transportation. This is why our new policy also asks each municipality to develop an accessibility agreement with the Ministry of Transportation. This agreement will outline a municipality's specific accessibility requirements and how it intends to achieve its goals. These plans must be in place by January 1, 1994, for municipalities to continue receiving transit funding from the government. We will, of course, work closely with each community to help it define its needs and ultimately better serve all the people of Ontario.

These new policies complement our other accessible transit programs. By allowing more people to use conventional transit, we can better tailor other services to those who really need them. A mix of different transit services and vehicles will better serve each community. A family of integrated transit services will put the needs of users first. The services will be designed to integrate people with disabilities into the mainstream of Ontario society at long last.

There is a growing need for integrated transit services, due to such factors as an aging population and an increasing number of people with disabilities, a desire to help people live in their communities with dignity and safety, and a greater awareness of the rights of people with disabilities. We are looking at ways to meet these needs,

which were so clearly described in the Action for Access report last year.

For example, low-floor buses make it easier for those with mobility problems to use regular transit services. At the same time, people with small children or someone with a cane will find it easier to use those same low-floor transit buses. Using low-floor buses for conventional transit will mean that specialized transit systems and accessible taxis will be able to provide service to more of the people who require greater assistance, lessening the demand for these more specialized services.

This government has demonstrated our commitment to accessible transit services by providing \$42 million in the past year to help fund specialized transit services in 146 communities across Ontario. Through the ministry's accessible taxi demonstration program, more than \$750,000 has been provided during the last two years to help private operators, entrepreneurs, buy wheelchair-accessible taxis. We're also participating in a \$54-million program over five years to make 25 of the 63 Toronto Transit Commission subway stations fully accessible to the disabled. In addition, GO Transit has made important progress in its accessible rail strategy. More than \$16 million will be spent this fiscal year for accessibility features at new and key rail stations, including Union Station in downtown Toronto.

Et ce ne sont là que quelques exemples des initiatives prises par le gouvernement pour améliorer l'accès aux transports. Mais nos exploits ne s'arrêtent pas là. Nous sommes en train d'élaborer de nouvelles politiques visant à souligner notre engagement ferme aux transports en commun et à les rendre encore plus accessibles à toute la population.

My parliamentary assistant, the member for Windsor-Sandwich, George Dadamo, has been given the responsibility for transit for people with disabilities. I extend my thanks and sincere appreciation to him for the hard and dedicated work he is doing and will continue to do in this important area, in this important dossier. He has made this dossier a mission, and I, for one, have learned long ago not to stand between a person and the goal, the mission. Thank you very much, Mr Dadamo.

This new policy demonstrates the government's strong commitment and support for a transportation system that is accessible to all people. We look forward to working with Ontario's transit systems to make this happen.

I would like to take a moment of the House's precious time to thank my guests, who took the time to come to the Legislative Assembly today to listen to this important statement, for it concerns all of us, but certainly first and foremost the people it serves on a daily basis. Their names are as follows: Lucy Costa, Mary Ellen Casino, Christine Miller, Sam Savona, Mel Posesorsky, Rob Trudelle, Paul Casino, Richard Decter, John Southern, John Feld, and of course from the Ministry of Transportation, Marilyn Lane and Tracey Fawcett-Bell.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mr Charles Beer (York North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise with some concern because earlier today a report and press conference was held on what is substantively something critically important to every member of

this Legislature, which is a report, Time for Action, presented to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Yet today we have no statement, and I cannot understand why, on this report—and if you go back to May of 1990, when this was first announced, this is a matter—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I realize this is important. Would the member take his seat, please. Would the member please take his seat.

The member will know that regardless of the importance of the subject matter there is nothing in the standing orders which compels ministers to make statements in the House. Such a practice of making statements in the House to announce government policy is something which this Speaker and my predecessors in this chair have always encouraged. But it is not in the standing orders.

I understand fully the point that the member makes and would ask that we move now to—

Mr Beer: Mr Speaker, I respect the point of view you had set forward—

The Speaker: Point of order? The same point of order?

Mr Beer: I want to make very clear that what this House leader—

The Speaker: One moment. Would the member take his seat, please. Would the member for York North resume his seat.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): The report was received today. The report was made public today. There's no government policy that flows out of a report that we just received today. When there's government policy there will be a minister's statement announcing the government policy, but the report was just received and it's been released today.

Mr Beer: That makes no sense, and when you put this into context of the kinds of rule changes you want to make to this place, you know that is an arrogant action. It makes no sense.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. Would the member for York North take his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I asked the member to take his seat.

It is time for responses from the official opposition. Start the clock, please.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Just to carry on for a moment on the point made by my colleague for York North: The government—

The Speaker: Would the member resume his seat, please. The member for York Centre: A point of order was raised. It has been dealt with. It is now time for responses to the statement made by the Minister of Transportation. I invite you to take that opportunity.

RESPONSES

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): I'm pleased to take the opportunity to respond to my colleague the Minister of Transportation's statement. I'll begin by quoting from it. He says in his statement, "Fully accessible transit

is our long-term goal." I think the emphasis there ought to be on "long-term," because this statement takes us not very far down the road towards an accessible system, let alone a fully accessible system.

There are a lot of platitudes in this statement but there really are only two issues of any substance. The first issue of substance is a determination to provide no more money to municipal transit systems for the purchase of new facilities—that is, new buses—after July 1, 1993, unless they are what is described as low-rise buses.

The second is that the government will undertake to enter into accessibility agreements with all municipalities. This edict to cut off funding to municipal transit systems is interesting, particularly in the context of a government which is currently discussing cutting off all transportation funding to municipalities under its disentanglement strategies, which are actively being discussed with municipalities as I speak.

Other than that, there is virtually nothing in the agreement that is going to further an accessible transit system in communities around the province. The minister talks about old announcements, "\$42 million in the past year," and what is going on on an ongoing basis. Surely the minister isn't trying to stand up and take credit for that again.

1400

What is very significant about the announcement is that it comes in conjunction with the budget and the estimates provided just three weeks ago. In that budget and in those estimates the Minister of Transportation takes credit for the fact that capital funding in the province of Ontario for roads, subways, highways and expressways will go down by some \$300 million over the course of next year. It's no wonder that the minister is now announcing that he's not going to provide any more money, he doesn't think, for municipal buses if they're not wheelchair-accessible.

I tell the minister, who is from a small community in northern Ontario, that he ought to spend some time travelling around the greater Toronto area. The degree of congestion on our roads, highways and subway system is unprecedented, but there is no rapid transit construction going on in the GTA at this time. The commitments made by the previous government to extend the GO network have been cancelled. There is no highway construction of any significance going on. It's no wonder: The minister presided over cabinet meetings that decimated his capital budget, and now today he brings forward representatives from the disabled community to participate with him in the celebration of an announcement of a long-term strategy that has two minor points, presented to this Parliament today.

I tell the minister words he used to use when he was in opposition: The minister too could be a hero. The minister could have fought for an enhanced capital budget, particularly when his Premier was up in Ottawa shouting at a government that he described as an absconding debtor, begging for more capital money to build the roads we need so our businesses and people can move around, particularly in areas of congestion, particularly in the GTA.

But that didn't happen. The minister failed in that debate. He failed to provide anything, not just for construc-

tion workers; we don't want to provide work just for the sake of providing work.

But it is urgent, and the Premier made the point as eloquently as anyone, that we begin to build new systems in our province right away.

What does the minister announce today? That down the road maybe he'll enter into some agreements with municipalities vis-à-vis accessibility, that next year he'll stop giving them money if they don't buy the right kinds of buses. Those municipalities have already made the commitments to buy new buses that are fully accessible. What the minister announced today amounts to nothing at all.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Quite clearly our party is pleased that the government recognizes that we have to move to accessibility of the buses. Unfortunately, this announcement is a great disappointment to us.

I too noted the fact that you talk about your long-term goal. I have some clippings of some of your election promises, and they say, "New Democrats are committed to retrofit programs to ensure that at least one car on all GO trains in the current system is made fully accessible and that all new vehicles will be fully accessible." I see nothing of that.

To date you've ignored your election promises, but that is typical of this government. You promised that you would spend more on capital programs. We've heard the Premier whining and snivelling to the federal government about the fact that they need money spent on infrastructure, yet as I asked you in a question yesterday afternoon, Minister, you are spending some \$310 million less this year on transportation than you did last year. So much for your emphasis on infrastructure.

I view this, in light of the fact that you're not putting new funds through to these municipalities, as more downloading by this government. You've reduced the transfers to 1% this year, yet the cost of these accessible buses is \$20,000 more on a typical cost of \$195,000. Now I'm asking you, where are the funds coming from?

Talk about absconding debtors. You are the absolute epitome of absconding debtors. This is not government. This is an excuse for a government. You make these announcements and reannouncements, but there's no substance to it. Instead of spending money on the right things, you're spending money, you're giving grants, to have unions develop songs. This is not the way to be spending money. We should be spending money on accessibility.

Where would the funds come from? I'll tell you, Minister, where the funds could come from. There's some \$80 million from the commercial concentration tax that your pals, the Liberal Party, put in and you promised to take away. You haven't taken it away but you're still pocketing it. That's \$80 million which would be available for accessibility—or at least take it off and keep that election promise. With that, I will pass it over to my colleague Mrs Marland.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I think what this Minister of Transportation fails to understand is that the disabled community is a lot smarter than he is. They are not about to be sucked in by this kind of non-statement today, a statement that says all new transit

terminals will be made fully accessible. Well, how many new transit terminals are being built, for goodness' sake?

They list all the issues that have been addressed and begged for on behalf of the disabled community for the last five years and say, "We are looking at ways to meet these needs." Mr Speaker, we need more than a government that's looking at ways; we need action. It's time that instead of talking about these things, which are identified year after year in the report by the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped—nothing they talk about is ever being done.

I challenge this Minister of Transportation to take a ride as a disabled person does in my city, the city of Mississauga, and try to get to downtown Toronto. First of all, they have to change Trans-Help vehicles three times, and that's if they're lucky enough to have them meet at the border, the big border between the city of Mississauga and the city of Etobicoke. They can't even interconnect time-wise, and sometimes those disabled people in the winter are left sitting, waiting for the bus to come so they can transfer on to another bus.

The bottom line really is that if this government were really committed to the disabled community in this province, it would do what I've been asking it to do—and the Liberals before them for seven years—that is, to declare the Trans-Help and Wheel-Trans and all the other disabled transit services in this province an essential service so they do not have the right to strike and hold the disabled people hostage in their own homes, which we have had examples of in the last five years a number of times.

So don't talk about your commitment to the disabled. Do something about it, and declare their transportation system an essential service.

CORRECTION

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Yesterday I made statements in the Legislature which actually were erroneous, and I would like to correct that record. Yesterday, in Hansard, I said that the calendar provided that the House was to come back on March 8, and in fact the government delayed this by four weeks till April 6. When I checked, Mr Speaker, I found that March 8 was a Sunday; in fact, the calendar provided that March 9 was the date that we came back, and it was delayed by four weeks from that time.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I always appreciate it when members rise to correct their own record and not someone else's.

REPORT ON RACE RELATIONS

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): If I might, I have been asked on behalf of the Premier to table six copies of the report from Stephen Lewis, the adviser on race relations, with the House today and to indicate that the Premier will be giving a full response to the report on Thursday.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I appreciate the matter the House leader has brought to my attention.

On the same or a related matter, the member for Bruce?

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): No, on a different matter, Mr Speaker. I rise to ask for unanimous consent to have the Minister of Community and Social Services provide us with a statement of material which she delivered to the public press today downstairs. I would ask that all members give her unanimous consent to advise the House of the nature of her statement.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the minister to make a statement? Agreed?

Interjections: Agreed.

1410

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REFORM

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): Mr Speaker, the member opposite is mistaken to say that I delivered something. In fact, the advisory group that was put into place by the previous government in May 1990 gave its final report to me today, and we were receiving that report. It is the report of the advisory group. It has taken a lot of effort on their behalf and they deserve the congratulations of everyone in this House for the work they have done.

This government has taken no position on the recommendations that are included in that report at this time. We will continue to work, as we are currently, with the municipalities around disentanglement, which is a major portion of the work that committee was asked to do in terms of looking at how to put the General Welfare Assistance Act and the Family Benefits Act together into one cohesive system with one cohesive deliverer, and we will continue that work. As we make progress I will be reporting to the House.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I ask, Mr Speaker, for unanimous consent for our critics of both the opposition parties to be able to respond to that statement by the minister.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Unanimous agreement for a response? No? There is no agreement? We do not have—would the member take her seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Should I place the question again?

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): We certainly would agree to unanimous consent.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Do we have unanimous agreement for a response from the two opposition parties? Agreed?

Interjections: Agreed.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I want to say at the outset, Mr Speaker, that I welcome the fact that the minister has told us that this report has been received. I quite recognize that the committee presented it.

My concern and the reason we felt it so important that there be a statement today is that we recognize that the government, as with ourselves, has not had time to digest the whole report, but over the course of the last five or six years I think all members in this Legislature have addressed this question of social assistance reform as being one of the most critical we deal with, because we know

that out there today is a political climate which makes it very difficult to deal with these issues and all the more important then to build a cooperative working relationship as we set forth to deal with this report.

I want as well, on behalf of our party, to congratulate Professor Moscovitch and all those who worked with him. We spent a good deal of time some two years or more ago thinking about the need for such a committee, particularly to put something in place that was going to bring the two major pieces of legislation together. That had been recognized in George Thomson's report *Transitions*. Those who were working on the committee saw that as being critical and I was pleased to note at the press conference, in answer to a number of questions, that those on the committee underlined very clearly the importance of moving ahead now with that legislation.

I would only add, as I went back yesterday and looked at the debate that had ensued when we first announced the setting up of this committee back in May 1990, that there was a lot of concern expressed by the minister's colleague, the now Minister of Colleges and Universities, about the two-year timetable that was put in place to develop this report and to develop the legislation. I am interested to see that, in point of fact, the committee needed that time in order to come up with what appears to be a very thoughtful report and one on which I think all of us in this House are going to want to spend a good deal of time and thoughtful consideration.

The one thing I would want to leave with the minister as she goes forward in considering this report is that the fundamental problem I think all of us have in elected life in dealing with the question of social assistance is finding the balance, that sense of equity that everyone has in our society in terms of who receives assistance. Anyone who has spent any more than even a little time as Minister of Community and Social Services comes to recognize very quickly the depth of the problem out there and the number of people who really need help.

But we also recognize that that view is not necessarily accepted by large segments of the population, so as we move forward we have to be very conscious not only of those who require social assistance but those who are what we now term the working poor. How do we balance off the ways in which we are providing support to those who are not eligible for social assistance but who none the less are facing a very difficult time? Certainly in a recession we see that all around us.

I think one of the things the minister needs to be conscious of and needs to bring to her own government, to the Premier and to the Treasurer, is the importance, therefore, of getting the economy moving, because all the training programs in the world for those on social assistance won't work if there aren't jobs. We can train people, we can provide all kinds of new skills, but if those jobs aren't there, then those people are not going to get the jobs they require to start earning income and get off that social welfare cycle.

I would hope the minister will take this report and recognize, as the authors themselves have said, that it is time for action, that we do need to move. I think if we

clearly debate the issues, if we set out what the problems are there and the fact that we end up spending money through our correctional systems, through a whole series of other mechanisms if in fact we don't make our social assistance system work in an equitable manner—if we don't do that, then we are going to be spending increasing amounts of money, and people out in the communities are going to say: "Why are we doing this? Why is our tax money going there?"

We have a tremendous obligation. The members of this committee, I think, have assisted us in setting out what those issues are, and I want to say to the minister that we intend to work very closely with her and her colleagues in trying to make sure we have a fair and equitable social assistance system that helps the people who need it and is fair and equitable to the taxpayers of this province.

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I too would like to put on the record our concern that this is yet another example of a social assistance announcement where this government has lacked the courage to come to this House and deal with the issue in the presence of all the House, in the presence of the media and in the presence of the public through the television network.

The truth of the matter is that the SARC reforms have been widely circulated and discussed by all three political parties and were the subject of a considerable number of promises in the last provincial election. In fact I recall, with my colleague the member for Hamilton West, undertaking a review of the concern of the growing need for food banks and a whole litany of promises that were contained in the then government-in-waiting to poor people in this province.

I must take the minister at face value when she says, "This was just a report we've received; we haven't taken a position on this report." I ask the minister, if you say publicly you haven't taken a position, why is it that in the March 31 treasury board document which was circulated in this House the day before the budget, on page after page are references to cuts to this program for the poor in this province, cuts to this disadvantaged group?

Mr Moscovitch and his committee have spent considerable time and deserve better of a government than to have to open the front page of the *Globe and Mail* and read about cut after cut from a leaked treasury board document.

To refresh the memory of the members of the House, what was contained in that document was a cut approved by the minister as a member of that treasury board, that \$8 million was placed on holdback pending review of options to offset a revenue shortfall related to first nations Back on Track initiatives. All the while, Mr Moscovitch and his committee were developing this report for first nations Ontarians.

It goes on and talks about a decrease of \$12 million for the social service employment program. On the next page: "Approve a decrease of \$5.8 million related to SARC initiatives that have not yet been implemented." On the next page: "An increase of \$198,000, including \$28,000 in salaries and wages for one staff, to support the development of new social assistance legislation"—not approved by you in treasury board. "An increase of \$1.5 million to

develop strategic directions in children's services"—again cut by you in treasury board. "A net increase of \$1.4 million for special child care programs"—again cut by you in treasury board.

You would have us believe that you and your government have taken no position on the poor in this province. What have Mr Moscovitch and his committee been doing if you're prepared to make these kinds of cuts and slashes to the poor of this province in this critical time during this recession?

1420

It goes on—that was just the tip of the iceberg—"Approve a decrease of \$138 million in social assistance." Yet you did approve an additional 450 FBA staff employees. You're going to hire 450 people to assist with all these cuts, I would imagine. It goes on to say you've approved new computers to upgrade the computers for FBA.

Minister, it's very hard for us to take seriously your statement that you have taken no position on the poor in this province as it relates to social assistance reforms. The tragedy for far too many families and children living in poverty is that they're right up there on your priority list with Sunday shopping and auto insurance and all the other promises you've broken.

But the cruellest promise to be broken is to those children sitting in poverty situations who can't afford the accommodation they're living in and are denied access to day care because of your ideological approach to ensure that your made-in-Cuba day care plan works in this province while you've shut down thousands of day care spaces.

Madam Minister, it's hard to take you seriously, if not honestly, that you've taken no position.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): It's time for oral questions.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I would ask for unanimous consent for the Attorney General to make a statement to the House with relation to the policy announcement he made today on legal aid.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous agreement for the Attorney General to make a statement to the House? Agreed?

Interjections: Agreed.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): No.

The Speaker: No? There is not unanimous agreement.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Yesterday and previous days and through the Globe and Mail, the House leader of the New Democratic Party's government has provided for us a sense that the Legislative Assembly has not been dealing with the business of this place. How is it that we can be asked to deal with business that is not justifiably brought before us so we can examine these and comment critically or favourably thereon from time to time?

It bothers me a great deal to be accused of holding up legislation, when indeed we have had no introduction of bills in this House between the dates of April 30 and May 26, when in fact we have passed a goodly number of pieces of legislation, but of the 17 bills that have been

introduced by this government, a full 13 of 17 have been introduced since May 26 of this spring sitting.

If we are not able to comment on the business of the House and the business of the government by having its statements, its public pronouncements, brought here to the chamber in time set aside for us, when is it, I ask you, that you are going to be able to protect the rights of the minority in this Parliament to provide a critical analysis of the public business?

Mr Speaker, under the standing orders—

The Speaker: Does the opposition House leader have a further point he hasn't mentioned previously?

Mr Elston: I was about to get to it. As I tried to say, under the standing orders the obligation of the Speaker—and I put it as obligation because that's how the standing orders speak of it—is to protect the rights of the minority.

I understand that you are unable to make the Treasurer attend the question periods. You are unable to make the Premier attend the question periods, as today. You are unable to make them give us truthful answers. As you have often said, it is not your business, you say, to delineate truth from untruth. You have told that to us from time to time as we stand to get the right story. In fact the member for Brampton North just last week stood to ask what he does when his version of the facts as written to him by a minister are different than the Minister of the Environment answered to her colleague in the House.

Mr Speaker, how is it and how can it be that your job as Speaker can be carried out fully and appreciatively if you are not allowed to deal with the business that is put before the public in a place other than the Legislative Assembly?

I ask for you to think about how you can protect the rights of the minority elected officials here in this House and here in the province. Although this is our meeting place, our entire province is our jurisdiction. The privileges of the members extend much beyond this place, and if we are to be protected against being overridden by the majority and being blindsided by a House leader who is intent on ramming stuff through this place, then we've got to know what role you have in guarding your obligation to protect us as a minority against the attacks that have been levelled at us, through the public press, by the House leader of this New Democratic government.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Guelph. The member for Essex South is asked to come to order as well.

To the member for Bruce, the House leader of the official opposition: He approaches an old topic in a new and interesting way. Indeed I believe I've made a statement in this House on a number of occasions that it is preferable in a Parliament to have government policy announced here first. That assists in the orderly discussion of public business. I believe also that my predecessors who had the privilege of occupying this position have made similar statements and requests. Unhappily, they can be only requests because there is nothing in the standing orders.

Indeed members of the Assembly may wish to consider that if at some point they are discussing the matter and

related matters in the standing committee of the Legislative Assembly, which would be an appropriate place to address concerns with respect to procedures. It is something I think all members may wish to reflect on and may wish to deal with in that committee. I very much appreciate the member's approach to the matter and I certainly appreciate the way in which he has brought it to my attention as well.

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Another point of order? The leader.

Mrs McLeod: Yes, in reference to your last point, though my House leader had asked for unanimous consent of this House to have the Attorney General make a statement on an issue that is of extreme concern to all members of this House, I would ask for your ruling as to whether or not we do indeed have that unanimous consent.

The Speaker: To the Leader of the Opposition, I had placed that before the House and there was at least one dissenting voice, so there is not unanimous agreement, and it is now time for oral questions.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Another point of order, the member for York Centre.

Mr Sorbara: I have just a very brief point of order arising from the fact—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I'd be very pleased to be able to hear the point of order that the member wishes to bring to my attention.

Mr Sorbara: The point of order is just very brief. I noted that the government House leader tabled the report by Stephen Lewis today and made a statement to the effect that the Premier might be here on Thursday to make a statement about the report. I wonder who, in the absence of the Premier and in the absence of the Treasurer, is the Deputy Premier. Is there an acting Deputy Premier in the House who could have made a statement today on the making public of the report by Stephen Lewis or is there no acting Deputy Premier in the Legislature?

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the House to come to order. I ask the member for Essex South to come to order. To the member for York Centre, I would like to be of some assistance to him. However, what he raises is not really a point of order. There was a statement made by the government House leader with respect to the report to which he refers and an indication that—I believe he said—the Premier would be addressing this matter on another occasion. It is time for oral questions and the Leader of the Opposition.

A point of order? The member for Parry Sound.

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a bit more of a non-partisan and lighter note, I would like to honour four of our esteemed colleagues who today are celebrating the 15th consecutive anniversary of their election on June 9,

1977. They are the member for Carleton, the member for Hamilton Mountain, the member for St Catharines and the member for Windsor-Riverside. I would like to point out that I'm not naming them in my order of popularity or effectiveness but rather in the alphabetical order of their ridings.

I think that all too often we forget how tenuous a position this is and I believe there are only nine members of this assembly who have served that length of time or longer consecutively. I would like to have added you in that group, Mr Speaker, but the annals of recorded history prevent me from doing so.

1430

SPEAKER'S RULINGS

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): Mr Speaker, I'd like to raise a point of order about the powers of the Speaker and get a direction from you, if not today then at some convenient time.

You have ruled consistently that you prefer a minister who has to make a statement to make it in the House. I understand the importance of that ruling. On the other hand, you are a Speaker who is elected by the House. This is the first occasion, I think, on which a Speaker in this chamber has been elected by private ballot of all members in the House. You have said that you prefer members of the government to make a statement in the House. Yesterday, because we knew that the Attorney General would be making probably the most important policy statement of the year today in Ottawa, I asked in his presence and in the presence of the Premier if he would make it in the chamber in deference to your wishes. He did not respond at the time but we now know that he did not take accord of your wishes, the popularly elected Speaker of the House.

Mr Speaker, the question I have for you is, how you can expect to serve in the chamber as our delegate when a minister of the crown, the Attorney General no less, refuses, in the presence of the Premier, to defer to the opinion that you have expressed consistently? It seems to me that to allow yourself to be placed in that position is to allow a serious abuse of your capacity to take place. I'd like you to make a ruling on that point. This is a contempt of Parliament.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): While I appreciate the member for St George-St David's respect for the Chair and the position the Speaker holds, I can assure him that I will discharge my duties to the best of my abilities. My duties include attempting to enforce the rules and the standing orders and the procedures. The matter to which he speaks is not something which is included in the standing orders. But I will make every attempt to enforce those standing orders to the best of my ability, obviously with the cooperation of all members.

Finally, to the member for Parry Sound, indeed, although—

Interjections.

Mr Scott: Why would you want to serve with him?

The Speaker: Would the member for St George-St David come to order, please.

Mr Scott: He paid no attention to you.

The Speaker: I asked the member to come to order.

Mr Scott: I withdraw. But Hampton won't do what the Speaker's asked him to.

The Speaker: I am asking the member for St George-St David to please come to order.

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Parry Sound, indeed it's an important occasion on certain anniversaries to draw to the attention of members the special events that occur. I, at least, am one member in this House who understands the lack of job security in this profession. But I would like to add my words to those of the member for Parry Sound, that indeed to have survived political wars for 15 years is something about which all members who achieve that can be most proud. No matter what side of the House they sit on, they continue to serve the public to the best of their energies and abilities.

It is time for oral questions; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, may I say that I appreciate your patience. I'm sure from your impartial position in the Chair of this House you can appreciate the frustration we feel when so much important business is in fact conducted outside this assembly.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GLOBAL WARMING

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. I want to ask a very specific question about what we consider to be this government's absolutely disappointing environmental record. In this particular case, my question is about the failure of this government to respond in any way to the impending threat of global warming caused by the continuous emission of greenhouse gases.

About three years ago, Ontario was actually in the position of taking a leadership role on this very issue. People in the private sector and in environmental groups were working together with a view to looking at how there could be agreement reached on effective ways of reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide, which as the minister well knows is the leading contributor to the greenhouse effect. There was to have been a white paper released in December 1990, which was to outline the kinds of initiatives that could be taken in transportation and in the industrial, commercial and residential sectors to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in these areas. There has been absolutely nothing seen of any of these initiatives since then.

I ask the minister why she has ignored the progress that was being made on this important issue of global warming. Why has she failed to act on any subsequent reports that have urged her to develop a comprehensive policy in this regard? Why has this whole issue been simply put on a back burner?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): Mr Speaker, I disagree profoundly with the Leader of the Opposition. A number of ministries in this government are

dealing with the issue of global warming. The lead ministry is the Ministry of Energy and my colleague the acting Minister of Energy will respond.

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): The leader of the official opposition has raised a question about global warming and about nothing having been done. I can't disagree more profoundly with the leader of the official opposition. This government has taken the approach that to sit around and continue debating, as the federal government has chosen to do, targets and theoretically the ability to reach those targets, is a waste of time.

We've proceeded to implement a whole range of programs which are targeted directly at reducing emissions, making electricity conservation Ontario Hydro's number one priority, expansion of the Energy Efficiency Act in the Ontario Building Code, the phase-out of CFCs in Ontario, public transit initiatives that have been announced by my colleague the Minister of Transportation, and restrictions on electrical heat use in social housing in Ontario. Mr Speaker, that list is a lengthy one that goes on for several pages here. This government has taken aggressive, specifically targeted action on global warming and will continue to do so.

Mrs McLeod: The Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Energy may both wish to profoundly disagree, but it was just at a news conference this morning—incidentally a news conference that was legitimately held outside the assembly—that the Ontario Global Warming Coalition announced that it was cutting off its consultation with this government, because of its inability to take action in setting a target for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

The minister has begun to read into the record the list, which I understand his government is circulating, the 15-point list which outlines the kinds of initiatives that they say the government is taking on global warming. But as the coalition itself noted this morning—this is the coalition speaking and not me—a number of those initiatives were not the initiatives of this government; they were the initiatives of the previous government. The Energy Efficiency Act, the Let's Move transit program, which has already been referenced today, the CFC reduction initiatives, were not the initiatives of this government, even though they form a part of your record.

The coalition notes that other items that are listed in this list of actions from this government are either of debatable significance or simply don't have the kind of CO₂ reductions that are contended. So having asked the Minister of the Environment why she has completely failed to address this very critical issue, I would ask the same question of the Minister of Energy. Why have you completely failed to follow through on any of the initiatives which were begun? Why have you completely failed to provide any kind of policy to address the issue of global warming?

1440

Hon Mr Charlton: Again, the Leader of the Opposition is just fundamentally wrong. I'm not going to put some kind of analysis on the coalition's reasons for its comments this morning, but I should make a couple of interesting points to the official opposition.

First, the Ontario Global Warming Coalition was in fact commissioned by this government to do a report. Now the coalition has put out a press release saying it will refuse to consult with us on the specifics of that report and its implementation. If that's the position the coalition wishes to take, that's perfectly appropriate. Unfortunately, in the report we commissioned from them and which they delivered to us, they did not prioritize the actions which they listed, or cost them. We are proceeding to consult with others and to have work done on the implementation of those measures. Further, the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, for example, the Energy Efficiency Act, which the opposition party when in government implemented, but it forgot to put in place the standards in the regulations, which this government has proceeded to put in place over the course of the last 18 months.

Mrs McLeod: This government is going to be in increasing difficulty if it won't even consult with those whom it chose to consult with in the first place.

If the minister does not want to deal with the statements made by the coalition this morning, I would take the minister back to the statements that were made by his own party at an earlier time. I'd like to quote from the New Democratic Party social paper of June 1990 entitled *Greening the Party, Greening the Province*, in which it is stated: "Since one third of Canada's carbon dioxide emissions originate in this province, Ontario"—not Canada—"must take the lead in fighting global warming." It was during the election campaign of 1990 that the NDP wrote to environmental organizations and promised to cut carbon dioxide emissions in Ontario by 20% by the year 2005 should it be elected.

I would simply ask how this government after stating so boldly and so clearly its intentions to deal with global warming and carbon dioxide emissions can simply retreat from all those promises.

Hon Mr Charlton: To put the answer as simply as I possibly can, again the Leader of the Opposition is just fundamentally wrong. This government has done more in terms of specifically targeting emissions that affect global warming than any other government on the continent. Second, on every single initiative that the coalition on global warming has proposed, this government has either already taken some action or is pursuing initiatives, developing initiatives around it. This government at the end of this decade will have by far the best record of any government in Canada in the fight against global warming.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): There are so many avenues these questions might well take that I don't really know where to start, but let me start by asking, why does the Premier decide to leave this place so often? Why is the Deputy Premier not here, but—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To whom are you directing your question?

Mr Elston: Let me ask a question to the acting Deputy Premier, the government House leader.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: When we speak factually in this place the New Democrats like to yell us down. That's the way business gets done here. I want to ask—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Perhaps the member for Bruce could place his question to the Chair and identify to whom he wishes to direct his question.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, last Thursday you will have noted that the government party dropped on the House two pieces of business, one which we knew was coming through the public press, that being the Ontario Labour Relations Amendment Act; the second piece of business was tabled without our knowledge and that deals with the changing of the rules.

I note for the government House leader to whom I'm going to pose a question that in the interim communication strategy associated with the Ontario Labour Relations Act and the consultation going on last year a leaked document indicated quite clearly that there were going to be pains taken to "neutralize the business opposition." I can ask the government House leader why it was he chose also to try to neutralize the dissent in this House with respect to the Ontario Labour Relations Act by bringing in these new and stifling pieces of standing order amendments, particularly at precisely the same time as the labour act appeared in the public.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I think it's been very clear over the last number of weeks that progress in the Legislature has just been very difficult to proceed with. I find it a little strange that the opposition parties would talk about the fact that they weren't given advance notice or anything like that about rule changes. I've been talking to the opposition House leaders about the possibility of rule changes for weeks, in fact months. I didn't get any advance notice from the Conservative Party last week that it was going to hijack the Legislature all last Thursday as it did with its introduction of private members' bills. They didn't give any advance notice. They sure didn't give us—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): What about when Kormos spent hours?

The Speaker: Order, the member for York Mills.

Hon Mr Cooke: They didn't give any advance notice last year when they did that for weeks on the budget at thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars of expense to the public.

It's quite obvious that the Legislature is not working very well. All one had to do was to look yesterday. When I tried to lead off the debate on the rule changes I was shouted down and not allowed to speak. Then we were entertained by two hours of a speech from the member for Renfrew North, which was the most personal attack on members of the Legislature ever in the history of the Legislature.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): It was an attack on you, not on the Legislature or the other members, and deserved.

The Speaker: The member for Bruce has the floor.

Mr Elston: I just lost my notes, but that's okay; a lot of this stuff is etched in my mind. We have gone through listening again to how this House does not work. In the government House leader's own press release, this press kit which came on the spur of the moment, well-orchestrated over several weeks and months, he has said they want to introduce up to 121 pieces of legislation.

There is nobody who prevents anybody from introducing legislation. I have here, for everybody to see, the 17 bills that were introduced by this group of people since April 6, 1992. As I said, 13 of the 17 pieces of legislation have come since May 26, very late in the session, which by our calendar is now known, obviously, to end on the last Thursday of June.

How can the government House leader stand in his place and condemn any of us for not doing the government's public business when in fact they won't introduce it so that we can consult the public that needs to be consulted about the ramifications concerning their business? Why has the government House leader chosen to lead the public to believe facts that are not correct?

Hon Mr Cooke: The facts are very clear. If you want to take a look at some of the pieces of legislation we've dealt with in this Legislature, when we came back last fall, in the first six weeks of the Legislature not one piece of legislation passed. We came back this year, several weeks went by and no legislation passed. The opposition wouldn't let us pass tax bills from the 1991 budget until this year.

There's no way the opposition parties can make any case other than that they obstructed the progress of this place. It's the determination of the government—not to do anything out of the usual: We're bringing in rules that are in line with the other provinces in Canada and with the federal Parliament. There's nothing radical. Even Liberal governments in other provinces have brought in rules just like this.

Mr Elston: I might well remark, for the public's interest, that the last time unilateral activity was taken with respect to the standing orders was by Brian Mulroney, with whom I know the current Premier, Bob Rae, has been spending a lot of time recently and is obviously learning the same skills that His Highness in Ottawa has foisted upon the public Parliament there.

I ask the government House leader how he expects us to believe in his word with respect to the conduct of public business, when we had assented to establishing an ad hoc committee—one representative from his party, one from our party, the member for Mississauga West, and one from the third party—to conduct an analysis of the rules, which would then be sent out to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly for vetting before they come back to this House. How does the government House leader expect us to have any trust in anything he puts in front of this House when he usurps the very strategy which was put in place agreeably among the three House leaders just in April of this year?

1450

Hon Mr Cooke: I first raised this whole matter with the opposition about how we could proceed to review the rules of the Legislature and introduce the idea of parliamentary reform last fall. I've had to deal with three or four different House leaders for the official opposition, which has made it somewhat difficult, but then we finally came to this idea that there was going to be an ad hoc committee, one from each party.

There has now been an attempt on three occasions to have meetings—the representative from the Liberal Party knows this—and those meetings have been cancelled because they haven't been able to be attended by one of the members of the committee. I don't know what the message to anybody else is, but it's clear to me that the opposition parties are not interested in trying to proceed with parliamentary reform.

We are going to proceed with parliamentary reform. We're proceeding with parliamentary reform which will finally bring the Ontario Legislature in line with the other legislatures in Canada and the House of Commons.

The Speaker: New question, leader of the third party.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the Minister of Labour. Despite attempts by your government House leader to bury the issue of the labour legislation with the diversion of draconian rule changes, let me tell you, Mr Minister, that no one in this province I have been talking to has forgotten last Thursday's disastrous, one-sided bill you introduced into the House.

Least of all, it seems, has your own party forgotten this. I have a copy of the most recent NDP propaganda mailout on this very issue. It says, in bold print, "In tough times, a government has to stand up for fairness." This is part of your propaganda document.

I'm wondering, Mr Minister, if you can tell me how scaring investment and taking away the jobs of thousands of Ontarians is somehow or other standing up for fairness.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think the comments of the leader of the third party are totally ridiculous. We're not scaring thousands of jobs away at all. What we're trying to do, very clearly, is make it clear that the working people in Ontario also have some input into the decisions that are made that affect them.

Mr Harris: This minister has tried to make this House and Ontarians believe he was actually working with someone other than Bob White when he drafted this bill. But Mr Speaker, I would ask you and members of the House to listen to what his New Democratic Party is saying outside of the House. They say: "Big business lobby tactics are scare tactics. They've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on phoney studies."

I wonder if the minister could tell me if it was the Ernst and Young study, a firm his government has hired on numerous occasions, not the least of which was to settle the Kapuskasing mill affair. Could you tell me, is that the study you are saying was phoney, or is it—I guess the only

phoniness we've seen so far—the fact that you refused to do any studies?

I would ask you this, Minister: If you think all the studies that have been done, independent and otherwise and by business groups and coalitions, are all phoney, why is it you haven't done one of your own?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: The coalition campaign that was on, early on, was based on the early Burkett report, which was not the direction of this government. I think the leader of the third party knows that by now, but from the way he keeps repeating the question I'm not at all sure. If he doesn't believe in my position of trying to improve labour relations in the province, I can't help him.

Mr Harris: The only phoniness is that you've not done one study on job loss across this province and you attack everybody who has. You say their studies are phoney. No matter how well your highly paid spin doctors try to package this, the bottom line is that this legislation will kill jobs, destroy investment and close factories.

Minister, you say as well in your propaganda piece that government, business and labour have to work more cooperatively together. We all agree with that. Do you think this malicious NDP anti-business propaganda attack on the business community is going to bring business and your government closer together?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: There are clear indications that much of the business community does understand exactly what we're trying to do now. I think the comments from the leader of the third party are unfortunate, because he's doing more to hurt business in the province than anything that's in the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Mr Harris: Don't put words in my mouth. These are your party's comments, Mr Minister. This is what your own party is saying, these malicious attacks.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Does the leader of the third party have a second question?

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I do, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Madam Minister, I understand from my colleague the member for Simcoe East that as many as 21 employees of the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre have received layoff notices. These employees are considered front-line workers in a maximum security facility that houses high-risk patients.

Can the minister explain these layoffs after workers were assured, when they ratified a 1% and 2% agreement for two years, that no front-line workers would be laid off? Can you explain these layoffs right on the heels of that and can you assure us that neither patients nor the community will be at risk as a result of 21 fewer employees?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): I can assure the leader of the third party that the kind of cost-constraint exercise we are undertaking within the ministry, very similar to what we have asked our transfer partners out in the community to undertake, is one in which we are trying to work with front-line workers and managers to find all ways of eliminating waste before we affect direct services.

With regard to the notices of layoff, I want to correct him in his indication; at least I think he implied that these people had in fact been laid off. Layoff notices have been received, but under the collective agreement which he referred to they will be provided with opportunities of redeployment, and we will take every step we can to try to minimize any displacement and find appropriate replacement work.

With respect to the provision of maximum-security services in this area in terms of psychiatric hospitals, I want to assure the member that we have gone from about 300 beds to 120 in the Oak Ridge area. We are at this point expanding forensic services in other parts of the province. The highest-priority need we have, however, is for medium-secure beds. Within the next six months we will be expanding in a number of areas and there will be transfers of further patients who are now inappropriately housed in maximum-security beds to those minimum-security beds.

Mr Harris: The bottom line is that once again the brothers and the sisters—this time in OPSEU 307—have had to turn to me and my party to speak on their behalf.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The leader of the third party with his supplementary.

1500

Mr Harris: By way of supplementary, while these 21 layoffs were being announced last weekend, I understand the minister had an opportunity to visit Thunder Bay. It seems she had a busy weekend speaking to the province's mental health advisory boards, some from Penetanguishene.

According to my itinerary, out-of-town delegates had their travel and accommodation costs picked up by your ministry—the same budget envelope that is laying off 21 workers—for three days, Madam Minister. That in itself is not my complaint, but conventioners, according to my copy of the agenda, went wining, dining, shopping and cruising.

I wonder if the minister can tell us how much this weekend in Thunder Bay cost, and how does she justify that at the same time as 21 workers are being laid off at the Penetang hospital?

Hon Ms Lankin: The leader of the third party is incorrect to suggest that I attended the conference and spoke there. He may be looking at an early, proposed agenda, I'm not sure. However, I wasn't in attendance. What I can tell him is that the conference was held for members of the community advisory boards to psychiatric hospitals. There were approximately 130 delegates, who are local community members, volunteers who work very hard to advise CEOs and administrations of psychiatric hospitals with respect to their programming and their relationship to the community.

In terms of costs, I can give you a preliminary response, and I don't mind giving you more detail if it's required. I can tell you that, following on various instructions that had been given to the ministry to attempt to keep costs down, excursion rates with respect to flights were achieved for people attending. It was about \$211 per seat

seat for the individual delegate attending, which is considerably less than most flights to Thunder Bay that were arranged. Accommodation was at a standard rate.

Overall, I believe the cost of the conference to the ministry was about \$38,000, which in comparison to previous years is a substantial reduction in the cost of bringing people together to try to promote and empower community involvement and input into government processes and delivery of service.

Mr Harris: By way of final supplementary, I am truly disappointed the minister wasn't there, because the one thing I thought may have justified this conference was an opportunity for the advisory committees, the 120 of them across the province, to pass on their views to the minister. However, now you tell me even that didn't take place. That now leaves the agenda for the delegates: a welcome ship cruise, then a luncheon without the minister where they enjoyed trout meunière and blueberry pie, they dined on the Voyageur buffet at Old Fort William, and when the seminar schedule got too gruelling they jumped aboard hospital vans for a little shopping trip.

Minister, how can you condone this spending spree of mental health dollars when hospital workers, such as 21 in Penetang in the riding of the member for Simcoe East, are losing their jobs?

Hon Ms Lankin: I think the leader of the third party does an injustice to the large number of community volunteers who are involved in this process, who dedicate many hours over the course of the year and have come together for what I understand was a very productive conference in terms of reviewing a number of issues that are outstanding with respect to the administration of psychiatric hospitals and their relationship to community programs.

I understand that in fact the delegates worked very hard. The conference resulted in a number of recommendations from the community advisory boards that will assist in the development of mental health reform. I look forward to being in receipt of all of those recommendations, and I'm sure that when I share those with the leader of the third party he will see that the kind of work these people are doing is of great value to the province and that the cost we have paid for this conference is certainly a real bargain when you look at what we get back from these people over the course of a year.

LEGAL AID

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Since the Attorney General refuses to enlighten us about the statement on legal aid which he made outside the Legislature today, I would like to ask a question of the minister responsible for women's issues. According to what the Attorney General announced today, the government is considering setting up pilot family law clinics, which would mean family law clients could not choose their own lawyer. As the minister is aware, over 70% of legal aid family law clients are women and children, often financially vulnerable, abused and powerless.

We have a situation where what the government is proposing is to set up a system where murderers and rapists have the right to choose their own lawyers but women and

children do not. This is the government that, first of all, purports to defend the interests of women. This is the government that says it stands for freedom of choice. This is the government that said it appointed 10 women to cabinet so they could speak for women, and yet we have this policy.

My question for the minister responsible for women's issues is, what have she and her female cabinet colleagues done to ensure that the Attorney General is not trying to save money from the legal aid system on the backs of the women and children of this province?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues): The member is quite well aware, I am sure, that over many years the women's movement has had a great deal of difficulty with the issue of the provision of legal care and assistance, particularly to abused women and their children, and that one of the major thrusts of the work that has been done is an attempt to improve the access of women to legal aid. Part of the problem is that many lawyers do not accept legal aid and that in fact those who do very often find their case loads growing at an enormous rate and are unable to provide the kind and level of service that is required by women in these circumstances.

There have been many proposals put forward over a large number of years by women's groups suggesting that one of the possibilities in areas where there are very few family lawyers who will accept legal aid might be the possibility of a clinic specifically for those family law issues. There is no question but that some of the opposition that is currently against this is based on the level of choice. In the discussions we have had we are convinced that, whatever the pilot projects happen to be, they will not interfere with the basic right of choice. It is the issue of not having a choice because lawyers are not available that makes us want to support this as a pilot project to see what happens.

Ms Poole: I can't believe I just heard that answer from the minister responsible for women's issues. There are thousands upon thousands of lawyers for women to choose from if they can get that legal aid certificate. Many of them are female lawyers who are in the family law bar, so to say that is simply not correct.

What we have here is an Attorney General who, on the one hand, has said he's going to save money on the backs of women and children. I read to you from the press release. The ministry is interested in "legal aid pilot projects in family, refugee and young offenders law." What three groups could you find more vulnerable: women, refugees and children? Sure, why not experiment, why not let them be the guinea pigs? Not only assaulted women's shelters but also the family law bar and judges have spoken out and said this will discriminate against women. Is this minister going to stand up with her cabinet colleagues and defend the interests of women in this province once and for all?

Hon Mrs Boyd: The member is simply not correct when she says the choice of private practice lawyers will cease to be possible. It will certainly continue, and in fact part of the Attorney General's announcement included an announcement that we will be increasing the family law

legal aid tariff. That has been one of the barriers to family law lawyers from going ahead with this program. In effect, what we are providing is more choice. If people have access to a lawyer whom they trust and who will accept legal aid, they will be able to choose that, but there now is an additional choice—a choice of those who choose to practise family law in a clinic setting.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Has the minister completed her response?

Hon Mrs Boyd: It is important for us to recognize that this whole notion of having a clinic specifically geared to offer the kind of support that women require when they're in this kind of situation is one that is favoured by many women's groups. Yes, there are some women's groups who do not favour it on the ground that they think it would become a total system that would forbid them choice. That is not our intention. Our intention is absolutely to increase the choice.

1510

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): My question is for the Minister of Labour. Minister, you and your colleagues have consistently argued that your package of changes to the Labour Relations Act are nothing to be concerned about because they exist in other jurisdictions. However, the fact is, in no other jurisdiction are the labour relations laws so heavily slanted towards unions. In no other jurisdiction are all of these provisions found in one package.

Minister, the entire package of changes you have announced will tilt the delicate balance of economic power between labour and management towards unions. Can you name a single jurisdiction in which the complete package of pro-union measures which you introduced last Thursday exists?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Everything that's in the package exists in the federal authority or in one province or another. All together, no. It is a very important package, put together to improve the relations between business and labour in the province of Ontario, and that's exactly what it will do.

Mrs Witmer: Minister, that is a story you have been spreading throughout the province.

I'd like to point out to you that despite your best efforts to convince the media and the public that there is nothing new in this package, the reality is that there are several provisions in this bill, which you introduced last week, that do not in fact exist in any other Canadian jurisdiction: the provisions regarding protection for union organizers, the purpose clause giving the Ontario Labour Relations Board the mandate to encourage union formation, organizing and picketing on third-party property, the rules for automatic certification in cases of unfair labour practices, combining part-time and full-time bargaining units in a single bargaining unit, just-cause protection for striking workers, and contracted services. All of these do not exist in any other Canadian province.

Minister, will you finally admit that the complete package you introduced is unprecedented in any other jurisdiction and that, indeed, some of your reforms giving unions the kind of sweeping powers which your bill will give them are not in existence elsewhere? Will you finally come clean with the public?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I want to tell the honourable member that we've been up front and clean with the public on this issue right from the beginning.

I think it might be advisable for the honourable member to stop and think of the kind of slam she's constantly giving to workers in this province. What's wrong with workers having some input in the decisions that directly affect them?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question. The member for Oxford.

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I noted with some degree of anxiety that the Minister of Labour basically suggested the member for Waterloo North said things that were not what she'd said at all. He's leaving the impression that she is putting forth a position that is not correct. She is not endeavouring to put down workers in this province.

How can members protect themselves against assaults like that when they lose the opportunity to respond to that type of activity by this minister? It happens all the time and it's one reason our privileges are being violated.

That member is not of my caucus but her position is my position, that we should be fairly treated by ministers of the crown. Just because they have the last word on a question shouldn't allow them to allege certain states of events and facts which do not exist. This government has been doing that far too much.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. As always—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for Bruce, as always, I listened very carefully to both the question and the response. There was no unparliamentary language used. There was nothing which was out of order. There certainly was a difference of opinion on both sides of the House. I understand the member's concern and that concern is voiced often on both sides of the chamber. Other than there being unparliamentary language or language which leads to disorder, members will choose the words they wish to use.

LIBRARY GRANTS

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Madam Minister, as you know, Ontario's library community plays a very important role in many communities throughout the province, including in my riding. The role of libraries has been changing over the last couple of years. Particularly during the recession, the use of libraries is up substantially, over 20%, and people are turning there as a cheap, effective resource centre.

Madam Minister, I don't need to tell you that if libraries get a cutback in their funding, this may mean layoffs and branch closures. Some libraries are already looking at that. Can you please tell the House when the libraries will know what their transfer payments are going to be, and will there be an increase?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): I can. I have no trouble giving the information. I agree. I think our province is extremely lucky in having a resource like libraries. The member for Oxford has picked up a very important fact: People do turn to libraries to help them look for jobs and to research employers.

We at the Ministry of Culture and Communications do recognize this need. In answer to the member's question, there will be no cutbacks to libraries. In fact, they haven't been affected at all by the budget constraints: 1,400 provincial libraries will get a 1% increase to annual transfer payments. That totals \$32.1 million in library expenditure operating funds. Grant recipients include public libraries, first nations libraries and county libraries.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): You haven't paid them yet. You're five weeks overdue.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Etobicoke West, come to order.

Hon Mrs Haslam: Regarding cheque releases, the operating grants will be paid in one instalment so that libraries receive the funds within the next two weeks.

Mr Sutherland: Madam Minister, there's also a concern about the smaller libraries being able to keep up in automation. Of course, in terms of providing a level of service throughout the province, this is very important for smaller libraries that exist in my community. What I'd like to know from the minister is, when will the ministry recognize that small libraries are just as important as the large ones?

Hon Mrs Haslam: We do recognize that small libraries are very important in the system. Small libraries, like the larger ones, carry out work within their communities and contribute to this government's province-wide initiatives to improve access and remove barriers.

The Ontario Library Consortium, which is made up of a number of county libraries, will be receiving a \$300,000 grant to finish the final step in its automation plan. As I mentioned, this will affect 18 county and public libraries in southern Ontario with over 200 service points. This new system will give members better control over their books and provide users with better access to all of the collection.

1520

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Minister of Labour. On April 14 I asked the Minister of Labour why the Workers' Health and Safety Centre decided to use the Queen's Landing Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake as the site for its retreat. It had come to our attention at that time that the Ministry of Labour's Workers' Health and Safety Centre had sent almost its entire

staff on a two-and-a-half-day retreat at the Queen's Landing Inn at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Mr Speaker, you will be aware that on May 27 I rose on a point of order wondering where the minister's reply was, because in reaction to my first question he had said he would get back to me. Now it is June 9 and still no response. I wonder what has happened. After two months, can the Minister of Labour tell this House why the staff at the Workers' Health and Safety Centre took an all expenses paid trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake when at that time there were perfectly good facilities available in Toronto for those meetings?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I apologize to the member. When I checked it, after he raised it a second time in the House, I thought the question was being prepared to be sent to him. I thought myself that I had responded to it. But I can tell the member that almost a third of the workers who were at that conference were not from the Toronto area. They were from around the province of Ontario. They had done costing for the conference and found that the price was as cheap or cheaper in Niagara-on-the-Lake as it was here in Toronto. They made that decision and it was their right to make that decision.

[Applause]

Mr Offer: I'm pleased to hear that the members of the government side have applauded that type of response. The Minister of Labour has again not responded to my question. I'm wondering, if the work by the centre was so important that it had to have been done at Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Queen's Landing, why, according to our information, were these hearings, these particular consultations, these meetings cancelled for the Wednesday session of the two-day conference so that the centre's executives could play golf? I am wondering, Mr Minister, whether you can tell the House whether you consider the cancellation of the centre's full afternoon session of a two-day conference so that public officials could play golf a good use of the taxpayers' dollars.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I can tell the member very clearly that the word I got back after raising the question he raised in the House was that it was an excellent conference, of value to the people who were involved. I think it's important that we bring these people together and not insult them when they're trying to do a job for the health and safety of the workers in Ontario.

LAKELANDS TOURISM GROUP

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The Lakelands Tourism Group is an umbrella organization composed of four active tourism associations representing the vibrant and concentrated tourism regions of Grey-Bruce, the Georgian triangle, Huronia and Muskoka. But according to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the Lakelands Tourism Group does not even exist. Lakelands Tourism Group has been excluded as a listing for the public in five important ministry publications, including Travel Ontario.

The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation spends approximately \$27 million in marketing efforts to promote

Ontario tourism locations, yet in its directories there is no contact listed for one of the most important tourism regions in the province. The Lakelands Tourism Group is not asking for funding from the ministry. Collectively, this group spends over \$1.65 million in marketing without provincial government assistance. The Lakelands Tourism Group is only asking that it be included as a contact in ministry travel publications and that it receive ministry information in a timely way.

Would the minister please tell me why Lakelands Tourism Group is not listed as a travel consultant in these five ministry publications?

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): Last year, during the course of the year, there was a choice made by the Georgian Lakelands Travel Association that it no longer wanted to be part of the Ontario Travel Associations' program, and with that would go the funding and the types of resources the member has talked about.

We continued to have discussions with the groups that are within the Georgian Lakelands group and tried to work with them to continue to support in any way we can, through our consultants and through our ministry, their efforts in tourism in this province. That commitment has been made by our ministry and will continue to be made by our ministry, and we hope that in the future we can have an association there that will be part of the Ontario Travel Associations' program.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I find the minister's answer quite curious. Minister, you've met with members of the Lakelands Tourism Group who represent the tourism operators in the Georgian Lakelands and the Georgian triangle. You know the lakelands association exists because your May 14 press release, which launches a campaign to promote Ontario to US markets, features one of the lakelands area attractions, and the press release says, "The world's longest freshwater beach isn't in Australia, it's at Wasaga Beach," which is in the lakelands catchment area.

Minister, simply because the Lakelands Tourism Group has refused to play your game, your response to date has been to take your ball and go home. You've not been cooperative with that association. You've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars printing up five brochures. You mention "Area 3 Lakelands" in the brochures and then you leave them blank. In a couple of the brochures you mention "Lakelands" and you put, "Contact not available."

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Jim Wilson: When my constituents call your 1-800 Ontario tourism line, they're told Wasaga Beach doesn't exist. You go to the bother—final point, Mr Speaker—of spending several hundreds of thousands of dollars—

The Speaker: Would the member place a supplementary?

Mr Jim Wilson: —advertising Wasaga Beach in US publications, newspapers and magazines, but you refuse to tell people where they can get a contact.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please? I have asked the member twice if he would place a supplementary.

Mr Jim Wilson: Very quickly then, Mr Speaker, my question is, Minister, will you agree today to stop playing games and restore the reference to the Lakelands Tourism Group in all your ministry's promotional brochures, or will you continue to play ball without one of your key players?

Hon Mr North: I'm disappointed in one of the statements the member made. I find it factually incorrect and I would appreciate it if the member would relate that this probably is factually incorrect, and that is that the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has not cooperated with members of the industry in that area. I find that factually incorrect.

As I said earlier, we continue to try to work with groups all over the province that are involved in the tourism industry. We work through the Ontario Travel Associations' program, which is a program that was set up by travel associations and the ministry across the province. It's something that has been a cooperative effort both with the travel associations and with the ministry across the province for some time.

There has been a choice made in this particular area that these gentlemen speak of that is contrary to what the program is at this time. As I said earlier, we continue to try to work with all members of the industry in the province. It's our job as an advocate for the tourism industry to try to promote all parts of the province.

The member across the floor noted that we speak of, very clearly, Wasaga Beach. When people ask us, "Where's the beach," we tell them where the beach is. It's at Wasaga. We continue to work to try and answer the questions that need to be answered around this issue to try and work this out.

1530

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is to the minister responsible for the GTA. As you know, my riding of Durham West is the home—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Member for Durham West.

Mr Wiseman: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I could barely hear myself. I'll have to start all over again.

My question is for the minister responsible for the GTA. As you know, my riding of Durham is the home for millions of tonnes of Metro garbage at the Brock West landfill site, the Brock North landfill site, and on the boundary of Pickering and Scarborough there is also the Beare Road landfill site.

Last Thursday my constituents in north Pickering received a list of candidate landfill sites. They are painfully aware that they are not the only community that has received

this dubious pleasure. They are still reeling from the shock of seven candidate Durham sites and one candidate York Metro site all identified within extremely close proximity of each other.

Under the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee the decisions were made behind closed doors to arbitrarily pick a site known as K1 to accommodate Metro's garbage. SWISC cut off the people's right to participate in the process. My constituents voted in September 1990 to put a stop to that. Now there are eight proposed sites around Whitevale.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Wiseman: Could the minister explain what is different about this process? My constituents are having a great deal of difficulty understanding, as it appears to them that this is in fact worse than what they were threatened with before. Also, could the minister assure my constituents that these sites will have a full Environmental Assessment Act hearing?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): The process that has been put in place by this government—

Interjections.

The Speaker: The rules prescribe an order for questions to be placed, a rotation. That rotation includes both sides of the House. Every member recognized by the Speaker to place a question will have the opportunity to place that question, and every minister to whom the question is directed will have an opportunity to respond. I would ask for the cooperation of the House so the backbench member for the government side can place his question and the minister will have an opportunity to respond.

Hon Mrs Grier: The process that is being put in place by this government to establish—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Would the member for York Centre come to order.

Hon Mrs Grier: —a landfill site within the greater Toronto area is very different from the process that was in place before. We've established an independent crown corporation, the Interim Waste Authority, to go and seek these sites according to criteria that are developed very publicly and very openly.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask again for the cooperation of the House so the minister can respond. Minister.

Hon Mrs Grier: What's primarily different about the process is that it's fair, it's open and it's independent.

I recognize, having said that, that it is no less painful for somebody who finds that one of the farms or areas in his particular neighbourhood is designated as a candidate site. But in response to the member's question, it is under the environmental assessment process, which means every alternative site will be examined, will be weighed and there will be every opportunity for people to participate in

that review, to have the ability to review the technical documentation that has gone into the decision—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): That's not true, Ruth. It's under Bill 143. It's not the Environmental Assessment Act.

The Speaker: The member for York Centre is asked to come to order.

Hon Mrs Grier: —and I know very well that all his constituents and this member, who has served them so well, will take advantage of that opportunity.

Mr Wiseman: My supplementary has to do—

Mr Sorbara: Tell them to tell the truth.

The Speaker: Will the member take his seat, please. Perhaps in a quiet, more reflective moment, the member for York Centre would have selected different words than what he just used. I would ask the member to withdraw the unparliamentary remark.

Mr Sorbara: What remark was that, sir?

The Speaker: The member knows full well what he just said. You cannot accuse another member in the House of not telling the truth.

Mr Sorbara: The Minister of the Environment said the assessment would be done under the Environmental Assessment Act and that is simply not true.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The volume was such that unfortunately I did not hear the words. If the member did say, "I withdraw," I didn't hear that. I would ask the member if he would withdraw the remark.

Mr Sorbara: What I said was that the minister said the assessment would be done under the Environmental Assessment Act. I reiterate that that is not true. It will be done under Bill 143, which is a different piece of legislation.

The Speaker: I must caution the member that—

Interjection: Throw him out.

The Speaker: Order.

Interjection: No respect for the House.

The Speaker: I ask all members in the House to come to order. I ask the member for York Centre—he will know that he has used unparliamentary language. I would ask the member to reflect for a moment, a member of long standing in the House, a member who I know respects Parliament—I would ask him to withdraw the remarks which were deemed by the Chair to be unparliamentary.

Mr Sorbara: I cannot withdraw—I'm perfectly willing to leave the chamber now, but I do not consider it unparliamentary to say that what the minister said in her response is not true. I'm not accusing her of anything else. I'm just saying the statement is untrue. I've said that in a million speeches—not in a million—in several speeches in this House—

Interjections.

The Speaker: To the member for York Centre: As your Speaker I will try to be helpful, but I must tell you

that what was said by yourself was that the minister was not telling the truth. The Chair cannot determine the veracity of statements, but the Chair must not allow unparliamentary language.

Mr Sorbara: I will withdraw the comment that the minister was not telling the truth. I will replace it with the comment that what the minister said—

The Speaker: No.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I appreciate the fact that the member withdrew the remarks. The member for Durham West with his supplementary?

Mr Wiseman: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My—

The Speaker: A point of order?

MINISTER'S COMMENT

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's an important point of order because several of us over here heard a remark from the Minister of Health, who is also the minister responsible for the anti-drug-abuse campaign of this government. In chastising one of our members, she suggested he should get some new drugs. I think that's a totally inappropriate remark. They're laughing on that side of the House, but when one of the ministers of that government stands up and criticizes this side, and we have a minister responsible for the anti-drug campaign in this province making a comment like that, I think it's totally inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Leeds-Grenville, the member will know that language—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for St George-St David, please come to order.

I did not hear the alleged remark. As is my practice, I would invite the Minister of Health—if indeed she believes she made such a remark she has the opportunity to withdraw it if it has offended a member on the other side of the House.

1540

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Anti-Drug Strategy): Mr Speaker, I'm not sure whether you're indicating that it was unparliamentary or you're just offering me the opportunity to withdraw if I've offended the member. I think the member who rose and spoke perhaps was offended. The member about whom I made the comments suggested that he doesn't need new drugs, that the ones he has are fine. However, if my comments have offended anybody, I will withdraw them.

The Speaker: It's nice to know everyone's trying to assist the Speaker.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): In this lighter moment I would like to return to the question of landfills. My constituents are particularly concerned about all the issues around landfills. Tomorrow, a joint meeting of the Metro Toronto works committee and the management committee

will meet to discuss tipping fees at the Keele Valley and Brock West landfill sites owned and operated by Metro. They are considering lowering their tipping fees. Some members of the public believe the province sets tipping fees. I would like the minister to clarify who sets tipping fees, the role of the province and the likely implications of these lower tipping fees in terms of recycling and the whole program of waste reduction.

Hon Mrs Grier (Minister of the Environment): I'm happy to clarify the jurisdictions for the honourable member and other members. Municipalities are responsible for delivering waste management programs in this province.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the minister take her seat, please. I once again ask for the cooperation of all members in the chamber so the minister can make her response to the question.

Hon Mrs Grier: If a landfill site or a facility is owned and operated by a municipality, such as Keele Valley or Brock West, those municipalities set the tipping fees for those facilities. The province, through its policies, encourages the municipalities to set the tipping fees at a level that will provide an incentive for waste reduction and cover the costs of waste reduction as well as reflecting the true costs of disposal.

As I have indicated in response to questions in the House before, what is needed in the province is a comprehensive waste management system that will deal with where their power ought to lie and what the financing of our waste management system should be. That kind of consultation is part of the work the waste reduction office is doing and part of the consultation papers that have been initiated. We hope to have a comprehensive look at the province as a whole in the financing for our waste management later on this year.

The Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired. On a point of order, the member for Bruce.

USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I've been on my feet several times today with respect to the announcement of government programs and policy decisions here in the Legislative Assembly. On many occasions they have not been announced here and we have taken issue with the government.

During question period, a time when a member is able to rise in his or her place to ask questions of pressing, important business of the day, you have allowed the member for Oxford to ask a question of the Minister of Culture and Communications. It allowed that minister to make what amounts to a government statement with respect to county library consortiums and the fact that they will be receiving some \$300,000 as grant money and that there are cheques in the mail which will arrive in the constituency in some two weeks' time from today's answered question.

It seems to me the minister could have stood in her place and provided that by way of statement as opposed to reading her reply to the question by the member for Oxford. I only ask that, if these people are going to announce the

things they are doing for the public in this province in these surreptitious—that's easy for you to say—back-handed ways—I am a little bit confused because I am a little bit upset with the way this business is proceeding.

I have not stood in my place very often, although from time to time I have stood in my place to remind the people that the public business is to be announced and done here, so we can do certain things in a critical and analytical way which allows the people of the province to know that this House is dealing with public business.

We have announcements of government things outside this place. We have announcements of government policies and programs by way of answering questions of their members. I am beside myself as a result of the assault on the opposition by the member for Windsor-Riverside yesterday and by the written materials which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on a couple of occasions which suggested that we were holding up business, when in fact neither the Premier nor the Deputy Premier seem to wish to be here very often, when in fact the ministers choose to be outside this place and make announcements, when in fact the Attorney General, the member for Rainy River, made his announcement in Ottawa and was here in this House in time to make a statement to us with respect to important government business, all because they will not allow us to be critical.

Mr Speaker, how are we to have our rights protected and how are we to believe that important business of the day will be allowed to be questioned in this House through the members' question period when you allow ministers of the crown to make important announcements in answers to the backbenchers? I am frustrated by being criticized by that man the member for Windsor-Riverside.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce—

To the same point of order, Minister?

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I did not make policy statements. I did not make any major granting statements. I made statements regarding the budget that has just come down and the fact that—

Mr Elston: You said the cheque would be out in two weeks and that they're getting \$200,000.

Hon Mrs Haslam: No, no. This was in the announcements that went out about my budget. I announced that there was a 1% increase to all the library operating grants; that's what the member asked me. He asked me about operating grants for the libraries. They have been held up through the process. I answered his question and said to them that the operating grants were now final and that the cheques were in the mail.

The Speaker: To the House leader of the opposition and to the Minister of Culture and Communications: Both of you have spoken to a matter which I made a statement on a little while back, and I believe in that statement I mentioned the fact that it is virtually impossible for a Speaker to determine whether or not a response to a question is an announcement of new government policy or a change in policy. I listened very closely, as I always do,

and this time to both the question and the response. I could not detect from that response that this was an announcement of new government policy.

The member for Bruce may recall that in the earlier statement I made I indeed invited ministers to choose the opportunity of ministers' statements as the time to make policy statements, but I must say to the member for Bruce again that it is virtually impossible for the Speaker to determine at an instant whether a response to a question is an announcement of new government policy. But I am certainly mindful of the point which he brings to my attention and I appreciate the explanation which was offered by the Minister of Culture and Communications.

1550

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Earlier today in question period, in response to a question by my House leader, the government House leader implied that the reason changes to the rules were submitted in the fashion they were submitted was that a committee had been struck consisting of a member of his caucus, a member of the Tory caucus and myself. That committee's role was to get together and discuss some form of parliamentary reform. That was not a standing committee or a special or select committee or anything. It was simply—I would think Mr Sutherland would agree with me—a voluntary committee the three of us would get together.

The unfortunate problems we all experienced with regard to scheduling led to two or three sessions that had been scheduled having to be cancelled, primarily due to the schedule of the member from the Tory caucus. I don't say that in any form of criticism; it was just simply unavoidable due to other duties and responsibilities. We all know that members of this House have very onerous duties and responsibilities and that meetings continually have to be rescheduled.

The House leader for the government—this point was raised yesterday actually—has suggested that, as a result of the inability of that committee to get together and meet and have some informal discussion about parliamentary reform, he has now found it necessary to unilaterally introduce amendments to the rules in this place. Where I believe that my privilege and the privilege of all members, but specifically mine as a result of his reference to me being a member of the parliamentary committee he referred to—he's implying that it's due to that committee's lack of activity or ability to meet that he's had to bring in these changes unilaterally.

Where I think he has clearly violated all our privileges is that if you look on page 42 of the standing orders of this place, under section 51 it says, "All notices required by the standing orders of the House or otherwise shall be laid on the table or filed with the Clerk of the House before 5 pm and printed on the Orders and Notices paper for the following day." So at 5 pm on Thursday you would lay with the Clerk on the table the order that would then be printed on Monday.

Then if you go to section 53, it states, and please bear with me, "Before the adjournment of the House on each Thursday during the session, the government House leader"—not some member of the government; the government House leader specifically—"shall announce the business for the following week."

What actually happened is this: It's clear that he has lived up to the letter of the standing orders, because the government House leader submitted the notice to the Clerk before 5 o'clock on Thursday. You will recall, sir, that the House extended sittings to 11:45 that Thursday, at which time Hansard shows that the government House leader rose and said, in effect: "I'd like to announce the business of this House for next week. On Monday I will tell you what we're going to be doing on Monday, and on Tuesday we'll deal with the opposition resolution"—which we will deal with shortly—"Wednesday, Thursday etc." He announced the business for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but told this place that he would tell us what we were going to do on Monday when we all arrived here on Monday. We, of course, found out with our early edition of the *Globe and Mail* that in fact he had tabled with the Clerk these reforms to the rules.

My point, sir, and where I think my privilege has been violated as the member named for our caucus as the member of that parliamentary committee which has yet to have an opportunity to meet—through no one's fault, I suggest—is that I believe what the House leader has done is he has simply snuck the order on to the Clerk's table and intentionally failed to tell the members of the House. If you go to section—I believe it's 23, which refers to the traditions in this place—it would be very clear to me that the tradition and the reason for section 51 under the standing orders would be so that members are informed of the business that is to come before the House in the following week—not the Clerk, not the staff, with respect, not even the Speaker, but the members. He failed to do that and he's trying to suggest that the failure of our committee to meet was why.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member take his seat, please. There are essentially two points and I'll deal with them both very quickly, the first point being the committee to which he referred, and that is a point of information. Obviously the member is indicating that he was prepared to meet and the meetings did not occur.

The second point is one which he raised in this chamber previously and it was ruled upon by the Acting Speaker. Upon consultation with the Speaker and the Clerk and others, the Acting Speaker, of course, delivered the correct ruling, and the Chair was absolutely right. I simply reaffirm that there is nothing out of order.

Last, I will say that, aside from the alleged point of privilege, I think I may have mentioned to the member previously that I believe the Legislature functions best when it operates without surprises, but there is nothing that happened which was out of order.

It is time for motions.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Miss Martel moved that the order of the House of Wednesday, April 22, 1992, referring the matter of the appointment of the Provincial Auditor to the standing committee on public accounts, be amended by striking out "June 8, 1992," and substituting "September 28, 1992," therefor.

Motion agreed to.

PETITIONS

CHILD CARE

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): I have a total of 26 petitions that comprise 390 names, the vast majority from the riding of Prescott and Russell.

"Whereas child care is not an essential public service;

"Whereas the proposed child care reforms for Ontario do not address the rights of the child;

"Whereas these proposals realistically eliminate choice of child care for the majority of parents;

"Whereas these proposals dilute parental control and responsibility for the wellbeing of their children;

"Whereas these proposals strongly and unfairly favour, without just cause, working parents over a parent who stays at home to care for their children;

"Whereas the government is increasingly unable to fulfil its current financial obligations to existing essential services, for example, health care and education;

"Whereas the profit status of a child care service is not indicative of the quality of care given;

"Whereas these proposals are not financially sound or justifiable;

"Whereas these proposals limit the ability of parents to obtain child care which will reinforce their social and cultural heritage,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"(1) Enhance the current child care system by concentrating the available resources for low-income families;

"(2) Abandon initiatives towards a universal child care system;

"(3) Guarantee that future child care initiatives will give equal recognition to traditional child care options, for example, a stay-at-home parent or care by a relative."

I have signed these petitions and I'm glad to congratulate Mrs Lauren Forgie and her team from Orléans for having collected so many names. There will be more this week and next week.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition that was sent to me by the Citizens' Initiative and Referendum Committee, which is headquartered in the city of Barrie. The petition reads as follows:

"Whereas we, as citizens of the province of Ontario, believe the constitution of any genuinely democratic society truly belongs to its people and that our views on any changes to Canada's Constitution must be heard and final

approval of such changes must be given by the citizens of Ontario;

"Whereas up to this time there has been very limited opportunity for input from grass-roots Ontarians,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We request of you who administer the affairs of this province to make available every opportunity for the people to see and understand fully what the new Constitution, and/or any amendments thereto, will mean to each of us, and then make provision for a final 'say' by the people of Ontario by way of a binding referendum."

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition signed by 52 residents of the county of Middlesex, particularly the township of West Nissouri, the township of London and the township of North Dorchester, who petition the Legislature of Ontario to set aside the Brant report because of the massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London, and further ask the Legislature to set aside the report because of its disregard for public input and the concern that this annexation will fundamentally change and destroy the rural way of life in Middlesex. I've signed my name to this petition.

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): I have a similar petition from the greater London area, and it reads as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundaries issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have signed the petition.

1600

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF CORNWALL ACT, 1992

Mr Cleary moved first reading of Bill Pr29, An Act respecting the City of Cornwall.

Motion agreed to.

PORT ELGIN SPORTSMEN'S CLUB ACT, 1992

Mr Elston moved first reading of Bill Pr41, An Act to revive Port Elgin Sportsmen's Club.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OPPOSITION DAY

HOUSING POLICIES

Mr Harris moved opposition day motion 5:

That, in the opinion of this House, given the misallocation of taxpayers' money during seven years of Liberal and NDP government, and given that this has resulted in the closing of hospital beds, the laying off of hospital staff, an ever-increasing deficit and the constant increasing of taxes, it is essential that every possible means of reducing government spending and redirecting of funds for priority ser-

vices be examined, in particular the complicated, expensive and misdirected housing policies.

Therefore, this House calls upon the government to undertake a comprehensive review of the housing policies in Ontario including the following specific areas:

1. Recognizing the role of non-profit and co-op housing, but given that the present government's commitment for non-profit construction is in excess of \$1 billion and monthly government subsidies per non-profit unit are often in excess of \$2,000, the government should seriously examine its involvement in non-profit housing.

2. The government should institute a program of shelter allowances which would address the need for affordability and accessibility by housing families and individuals in current and future private sector units, thus advancing the goals outlined in the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee.

3. Revise and implement a more timely regulatory approvals process which will facilitate greater social and economic opportunity through home ownership.

4. Improve planning of the infrastructure necessary to ensure safe, secure and affordable communities.

5. Given that rent control policies lead to a deterioration of quality, affordable and accessible housing, this government should replace rent controls in Ontario with new forms of tenant protection.

6. Promote the involvement of the private sector in all aspects of housing development in Ontario.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I wish to say a few words in support of the motion. I hope that all members of the House will endorse—perhaps not the whole motion; I understand there may be some concerns with part of it, but that they will address those parts they have difficulty with. I know I talked to a number of Liberal members and they said that, with the exception of the preamble, they thought there were things here they could support, so I suggest to them a couple of things.

One, item 5, scrapping rent controls completely: I would be very interested in hearing specifically of the Liberal Party's support for that policy; of their understanding, of their recognition that it is, with all their efforts to revise rent control to make it fair and workable and now the efforts they've seen from the New Democratic Party—that the Liberal Party would, once and for all, recognize that in fact it is not workable and that the more they try to revise and change and alter, in fact the worse the problem is and the less we are helping tenants, particularly helping those most vulnerable in society today. So I invite the members of the Liberal Party to comment specifically on section 5 if they have difficulty with other parts.

Second, I want to mention the preamble. I want to mention what happens to legitimate social spending when government gets involved in things it has no business being involved in, when it tries to supplant the private sector and pretends that somehow it can be all things to all people and can do things more cheaply, more efficiently than the private sector. What happens is that taxes go through the roof, deficits balloon and the government does nothing well. In fact, what happens is that legitimate social priorities, health care spending, priorities that all of us support,

regardless of where we come from, which party or philosophy—we are most distressed to see cutbacks in a number of areas.

This is what happens specifically when government gets involved in spending billions of dollars in areas that it has no business being involved in, because time after time it has been proven around the world in states, in provinces, by the federal government and indeed here in Ontario that the more billions they spend, the worse the problem is and the fewer people we actually help. So the preamble is important.

There are many other areas I could have mentioned, but I wanted to mention and tie in the fact that legitimate social policy needs get scrapped, even by so-called caring New Democrats. What a hoax that was, perpetrated on the voters of this province when we listened to all the rhetoric for all these years and then in the campaign versus the action. Legitimate policies get shunted aside and programs get shunted aside as the appetite for these programs that are not working accelerates.

I want to address a number of areas. I have raised the non-profit and co-op housing for years in this Legislature with the Liberals, who put all their eggs into this basket. They put hundreds of millions of more dollars every budget, every throne speech, every election, "We're going to spend this new billion and that new billion on non-profit housing," and every new billion they spent, there were more people on the waiting list. More and more people who needed help the most didn't get it.

The second objection we have with non-profit housing is the horrendous cost when government gets involved. I don't object to co-ops, I don't object to non-profit housing, but when government funds 100% of it, then the waste starts, then the ripoff starts. There's big profit in non-profit. That's why the non-profit units many times are 50% to 100% to 25%—take your pick, because I've got examples of them all—in excess of the marketplace for the cost of bringing some of this housing on stream.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): According to Mike Harris. Which is it, Mike? Is it 50%, 25%?

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. The member for Downsview, would you please take your seat?

Mr Harris: We get examples where the taxpayers are on the hook for \$1,500 a month, for \$2,000 a month to subsidize units for 35 years—that's before any rent-geared-to-income is paid—in some of these things. Then we get government ownership, and then we get some of the other expenses.

After having spent all that, we don't know if the right people are in the units. We don't know if those who need the most help are getting the units. Third, we ghettoize those who are seeking support.

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That is why, for all these reasons—cost certainly is one, but more important, to help the 53,000 people who are now on the waiting list who cannot get into the lifeboat. I talk about government programs and try to give an analogy. If you think of them as lifeboats, who gets into

the lifeboats when the ship goes down? The strongest swimmers get there first and the most vulnerable in our society, the homeless, the poorest of the poor, are not getting help. They're not getting assistance and there are more and more of them as every year goes by.

That is why we talk in number 2 about bringing in a program of shelter subsidies to replace the horrendous waste of taxpayers' dollars, the ghettoization that takes place by the government building all these units in one place together, the stigmatization that takes place when they're all in one unit in one neighbourhood.

I'm critical of the Liberal Party because it abandoned this approach and went willy-nilly down the non-profit route. The only thing that changed when the New Democratic Party took over was that it said, "We care more than you do because we're wasting more billions than you did." My gosh, if the measure of caring is who wastes the most dollars, then we're in big trouble in this province. The time has come to speak out unequivocally and clearly about rent controls, which have been a disaster in this province, about government ownership and the massive subsidization of bricks and mortar and builders and developers. Instead, helping tenants has got to be advocated and brought forward in a forthright way.

Many of my colleagues wish to speak and will point out some of the individual examples, but the reality is that the area we've moved to of tighter rent controls, of more billions being spent in government ownership or government-subsidized bricks and mortar, has not worked. There are more and more people who need help, particularly the most vulnerable.

We believe the same number of dollars, or even fewer dollars, quite frankly, will help more people and will help those who need the help the most. There is no need for one person, let alone 53,000, to be sitting on a waiting list for decent, affordable and proper housing for themselves and their children or their families. There is no reason for a single mother to be out in the cold or to be in substandard housing, none whatsoever.

We are calling on the government now—as it recognized when it finally studied things like Sunday shopping and when it finally studied things like government-run auto insurance and got to the facts—to analyse the record, look around the rest of this country. Look at British Columbia when you're dealing with section 5 on rent controls. They scrapped rent controls in 1985. They have had a hotter housing market than we've had. Their vacancy rates are lower than ours in Ontario, and if you analyse from 1984 through to 1992, their increases in rents were less than ours. You know what happened? The marketplace worked. The marketplace provided lower rents for tenants, more choices, more options than all of these billions of dollars of government housing, control and having to hire consultants. All the money that is spent on lawyers and consultants to comply with this legislation did not work as well as the marketplace worked in British Columbia.

I say to the government, put ideology aside. Look around the world at all the interventions into the marketplace that government took on. I have no doubt the motive was right, you truly thought you were going to help people,

but analyse. You're not helping those who need help the most. In fact, those who need help are getting help the least with your policies. Under our proposals for shelter subsidies, we would provide more help for less money to those who need it most, with less stigmatization, if you like, and with less ghettoization. I do not understand why caring, decent people elected out of a sense of compassion and wanting to help will refuse, for some ideological reason, to analyse what works and what does not work.

In sections 3 and 4 of this motion we also talk about the regulatory approvals process and the improved planning of the infrastructure that are necessary. I don't want to reread the motion, but the reality is that there are ways you can intervene to assist the marketplace and there are ways you can intervene that cause the marketplace not to work very well. Governments in the last—and you can pick 10 years, if you want, 12, 15; let's be non-partisan about it. My own party has certainly made some mistakes in the planning process and in the control process and the intervention.

Let's examine those areas that have caused the marketplace not to work as well as it can: the planning process, the desire for consultants, the lack of response from ministries, the time—sometimes seven years to get raw land out there in the marketplace for housing, whether it be for multiple-unit or single-family homes. These are areas that government should analyse and say, "How can we now intervene to make the marketplace work even better than it did in British Columbia, than it did in Vancouver and than it does in other areas?" We're in a recession now; we want to put people back to work. Should we not be investing now in the infrastructure of sewer, water, garbage, roads and transit, those areas that could allow us to have a surplus of serviced land?

Why is it that even municipal governments—and I hope municipal governments are paying attention. I've seen philosophy after philosophy and it says: "Oh, you know, we've got to be careful here. We've already got 1,000 serviced lots, so we don't want to have too many." Why not? Why do you want anybody to make a buck on land? If you look at jurisdictions, if you look at Florida, for example, except where it's in short supply on the gulf or the ocean, a lot is worth today about the same as it was 20 years ago because there's an oversupply.

Your target, the government target—municipal, provincial, particularly in the regulatory process—should be to have a surplus of land for town houses, for apartments and for single-family homes so that if somebody wants to make a buck in this province—and I hope they do; unfortunately not as many think they can do it as well here as in almost any other jurisdiction in North America—they don't make it on the land because government has created an artificial shortage of supply; they make it because they built a quality product and a product that is attractive.

When we look at jurisdictions that have done that, we see housing prices half the price of housing here. We see, instead of governments talking about bringing in a new tax on speculation, that there is no speculation, and the fact that there is some speculation on land—or there used to be; there's not now in the recession—is because it can be

laid pretty much squarely at the feet of government and government interference with allowing product to get to the marketplace.

Sections 3 and 4 say we're in a recession and that we have high vacancy rates. There's no better time, now that the marketplace can work at the same time, so when we talk about phasing out rent controls and replacing them with shelter subsidies and replacing them with a working marketplace, there's no better time. If you want to have make-work programs—and I think there is a need for some—they should be in the areas that will benefit us in the long term, not in the billions of dollars of this government-owned housing that's going to cost us for ever and a day.

I call on all members of the Legislature to support a new direction different from one which has been pursued in some areas by my party in the past, certainly by the Liberal Party and now in fast-forward by the New Democratic Party. I call on everybody to come forward in a non-partisan way and say: "Don't point the finger so much at the past. Let's learn from the past. Let's learn from the mistakes that we all made in the past and move forward in a new direction."

I call on you to do that and I suggest to the members of this Legislature, of all parties, that the proposals we are advancing will indeed substantially reduce the cost of housing. There is the promotion of home ownership, which is also in this resolution. I didn't spend as much time on it as I wanted to. The goal, surely, of home ownership is a tried and proven goal for people. This government in fact has stated that that's not one of their priorities at all. I recall reading, when I saw their top four priorities, it talked about rent controls, more government legislation, supplying non-profit housing, and consulting on how to create a better quality of life in public housing.

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I'll tell you how: Provide shelter subsidies in all units, in all regions, all across the province. Don't ghettoize them and then wonder why you have problems in those areas, where you put them all into one neighbourhood or one project. Adopting a policy for making greater use of government land for housing: Speed up the approvals process. There'll be more private sector land out there for housing than you can shake a stick at. There'll be an oversupply and the prices will come down.

Promote and encourage the goal of home ownership, and the pride, and restore the dream to Ontarians who aspire to own their homes. Recognize that even though a recession is on, there has still been no proven better value than home ownership in this province, and no greater goal or desire in my view for property that is your own. When you own it, the pride of ownership and maintaining it and keeping it in good repair supersedes and creates more jobs than anything government could possibly do.

This is why we have suggested a package of directions different from what has been followed in the past period of time, completely different certainly from government in the last seven years. I encourage members of the Legislature to come forth and speak their minds. If they disagree with one or two of the aspects, say so and tell us why. If

they agree with others, I hope they will come forward and say that as well.

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): This is a resolution which is well laid out in terms of the elements, in terms of what the member, the leader of the Conservative Party, wishes to address in housing policy. The pity is that he doesn't understand that it is this government which has really set a standard in terms of bringing the elements of a good housing policy together in the history of this province.

On all the items he has addressed in his ramble through the rather well-ordered points he's put out here—not that I agree with them but they are well ordered—in his rambling address to them, he never once mentioned the fact that this government has in fact, since it came to office in September 1990, developed a housing policy framework which has gone to consultation around the province. It has developed a policy on use of government land for housing which has gone to consultation around this province.

He did mention that we have brought in and finally passed a rent control bill which will provide for the first time that tenants in this province will have one rent increase a year which is predictable and which has a final cap on it. They will know what it will be. It will never again be in the range of double-digit inflation, which we've seen in the past. It also provides for a supply of funds through the rent control system to landlords so that they're going to be able to maintain those apartment buildings.

We are also about to begin to address the question of the quality of life in public housing, a subject which has been a matter of delay in terms of government action for over a decade in this province. We will be beginning that process within a matter of weeks. Those people who live in Ontario Housing Corp apartments, whom the leader of the Conservative Party refers to as "them," those people will be joined in a process of planning the communities in which they live.

We have gone through a review, preparatory for the budget, of our whole non-profit program. We have told our non-profit partners, both co-ops, municipal non-profits and private non-profits, that their operating expenditures will be funded at an increase of only 1% this year. We have also adjusted their funding, so we have cut \$20 million from the overall expenditure on funding for non-profits and co-ops. It is not that I'm particularly proud to have squeezed this sector as we've had to squeeze other sectors, but I want to tell you that we have gone through a very careful review of the way we spend money in this non-profit program.

The Conservative leader's resolution refers to a \$1-billion budget for non-profit housing in Ontario. In fact, the whole Ministry of Housing budget will be around \$1 billion this year. He refers to the problem this creates for areas such as health, but the Housing budget in total, which includes programs directed at the private sector, co-ops, non-profits and municipal non-profits and all our other programming including rent control administration, is 1.5% of the provincial budget. It's not as if this is a monster eating up health care. Au contraire.

We have looked very carefully at the way we are providing funding within the non-profit sector, a sector that very much upsets people of the political persuasion of the leader of the Conservative Party. He really feels that housing is not a legitimate social policy area. He almost said that.

I'm going to suggest to you that it seems to work only on one side, because although he thinks we shouldn't be building, as he puts it—we shouldn't be building. We don't build non-profit housing. It's the construction firms and developers of Ontario who build non-profit housing.

Interjection.

Hon Ms Gigantes: Yes, indeed, it's done by the private sector and it's the private sector which has written to us in many letters and encouraged us to keep up the level of building that we do in non-profit housing, because they have not been able to get work in the private sector during this recession and are very grateful for the work we are doing now in non-profit housing.

The leader of the Conservative Party suggests that it's all right for us to take public money, give it to tenants and let them go and pay it to private landlords, but that it's not all right for us to take public money and invest it in building by the private sector, which provides a long-term affordable housing supply. He neglects to note that within the expenditure we make on an annual basis to provide all the financing within our non-profit housing program, \$300 million would be spent by the Ministry of Community and Social Services if we weren't providing the funding in non-profit housing.

The leader of the third party, the Conservative Party, does not understand the financing of our non-profit program. He does not understand it at all. This resolution suggests that we should start a rental shelter program in Ontario, that we should provide subsidies that go to the private market. In fact, the Ministry of Community and Social Services provides \$2.5 billion a year for shelter allowances in this province. Is that a large enough program of shelter allowances for the leader of the Conservative Party?

On top of that, the Ministry of Housing puts another \$80 million into the very kind of program he thinks should overtake all our housing policy, which is to provide subsidies for people to rent in private apartment buildings. We work out five-year leases with apartment building owners and we provide the difference between what a rent-geared-to-income tenant can pay and what the cost of the accommodation is. We spent \$80 million on that this year.

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It is not at all accurate for the leader of the Conservative Party to suggest that we don't have shelter allowance programs. We have \$2.5 billion in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We have another \$80 million through the Ministry of Housing. But he wants us to drop everything else and just pour it all into private equity.

I believe that if we are gathering together public resources, it is fair enough that we should use those public resources to create public equity that will assure that over a long period of time people in Ontario will have access to

affordable rental housing, that is, housing that stays in the community for the purpose of housing those who need help to find affordable housing in the community, that is long-lasting, is a public resource and is something that is creating jobs as we go, at a time, right now, when we desperately need them in the construction industry.

The leader of the Conservative Party talks about 53,000 people on waiting lists. The waiting lists are long, Mr Speaker, but we will not solve the waiting lists problem by saying we're going to pour tens and hundreds of millions of dollars more into asking those people to find private rental accommodation and we'll provide the difference between what they can pay and what the landlord is asking. As soon as we do that on a huge scale—totally ungoverned by regulation is the way he'd like to do it, and the way the Fair Rental Policy Organization has been promoting it around this province—we would be asking for inflation in apartment prices. Where would we find that number of affordable rental units? We've got to build them now, because they're not getting built.

When he talks about the British Columbia experience, in British Columbia, with no rent controls, rental accommodation wasn't getting built either during this whole period. The reason is that in large urban centres the cost of land and the high interest rates we've seen over the last several years have made the construction of affordable rental accommodation impossible. It has not been possible for a private developer to go into the market in a large urban centre, find land and find interest rates and building costs over the last five or 10 years that would have allowed rents to be set that would provide affordable accommodation for people. That just hasn't been possible. We've seen some higher-rent accommodation built, mainly through the vehicle of the condominium, but we have not—and we have not seen it in British Columbia either—seen the development of affordable rental accommodation.

The fact is that unless the government is involved in helping to finance affordable rental housing construction and development, it's not going to happen. The leader of the third party had better understand that, because what he's saying is: "Get out of non-profit. Get out of co-op. It's not the government's business. The government shouldn't be involved." He doesn't understand that if that happens, there will be no new affordable rental housing coming on to the market.

There are various other points in the resolution that has been put forward by the—

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): That is very close to a misleading statement, very close to it.

Hon Ms Gigantes: Mr Speaker, I find it really distressing to have these half-veiled insults coming across the floor.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): I want to remind all members that you will have the opportunity to participate in the debate when your turn comes, so please refrain from interjections. The honourable Minister of Housing.

Hon Ms Gigantes: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The resolution of the leader of the Conservative Party suggests that

it is fair to say that most of the accommodation being created through our non-profit and co-op housing program is "in excess of \$2,000" in terms of monthly government subsidies. That's not the case, and I can give him accurate figures.

In 1991 the average subsidy was \$950 and that includes—for the benefit of the Housing critic of the Conservative Party, who never understood this—the cost of the land, it includes the cost of the financing, it includes the cost of construction and it includes the cost of the subsidy for those RGI, rent-geared-to-income, units.

I just want to make that perfectly clear to the Housing critic for the Conservatives, who has stood in this House and said it doesn't include the land costs and the construction costs. In fact, the range in terms of subsidies for those units which were committed in 1991, which were undertaken in 1991, is a subsidy rate of between \$690 per month and \$1,250, and it depends very much on where the land is in large urban centres, whether it's a higher-priced piece of property, and the size of the development and who is being housed there. If we have people who are looking for accommodation who have really not had access to the housing market at all independently before and we are providing subsidies so that they are paying \$90 a month, obviously the subsidy from the government is going to be higher, but the average is about \$950.

I'd like to touch just quickly also on points that the leader of the Conservative Party has raised in his resolution and which he addressed very briefly.

He talked about the need to beat back what he calls an artificial shortage of land. I don't know what's artificially short about serviced land. I think the natural state of land is unserviced. In order to service it, we've got to take a positive action. In many instances that means not just speedup of approvals, it means investment in water and sewers, it means heavy undertakings of public expenditure, and that is hard to do at a great rate when you're in a time of recession, obviously.

Nevertheless, this government has taken action through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to try and find those areas in which approval delays really have been the result of tangled-up processes and lack of attention perhaps. We don't know all the answers, and we are getting answers now from the provincially appointed facilitator, Mr Dale Martin, who has been working to try and get approvals for various projects in communities around Ontario. So we have addressed that question and we'll see how much difference we can make. That announcement was made in April, and Mr Martin is on the job and beginning to report to us. He's also been hard at work.

Another item which was mentioned in the resolution is the question of infrastructure and safe, secure, affordable communities. As members of the House are well aware, one of the early moves by the Minister for Municipal Affairs, when this government took on responsibility in Ontario, was to appoint the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario headed by John Sewell, Toby Vigod and George Penfold. They will be reporting this year.

We have worked with the private sector. It is always suggested by the Conservatives, number one, that we don't like profit, that "profit" is a dirty word to members in the New Democratic Party, that we don't like talking to people in the private sector, we don't like helping people in the private sector. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As Minister of Housing—and my predecessor in the Ministry of Housing, Dave Cooke, did the same—I've met with developers, I've met with the home builders' association representatives, I've met with representatives of the construction industry, I've met with representatives of the mortgage lenders and banks, and as this House and the Ontario public are well aware, leading up to the federal budget, we did a lot of work with those representatives to help convince the federal government to lower the level of down payment required for a private home purchase to 5% and to allow the use of RRSPs in the purchase of homes. We had also hoped they would allow the use of RRSPs in the renovation of private housing, but they did not choose to do that.

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This government also has continued a program which was begun during the Liberal administration, which is the Ontario home ownership savings plan. It provides a tax deferral scheme, a tax rebate scheme, for people who enrol to purchase a first home. Since 1988, 180,000 plans have been registered through the Ministry of Revenue and in fact 85,000 households have purchased their first homes with the assistance of that plan.

So we have indeed worked with the private sector partners in housing and we will continue to do that.

Just as a final comment, I'd like to point out to the leader of the Conservative Party that were he to get his way and were we to withdraw our rent control legislation, the one third of tenants in Ontario who pay over 30% of their income in rent would be lost. If he thinks the waiting list for subsidized housing is long now, I shudder to think what it would look like if he got his way on rent control.

Further, we have figures now on the construction industry and employment in the construction industry which indicate that the level of employment is at its lowest, relatively speaking, since the early 1980s.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Oh, the recession's over; that's good news.

Hon Ms Gigantes: The level of employment, I said; get it straight.

That means construction workers around this province are in desperate straits for work. We are currently involved in construction on 28,683 units, and those units represent 48,187 full-year jobs. Those are important jobs and they're doing an important task for Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on opposition day motion 5, Mr Harris's motion?

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): There are a number of things that are unfortunate about this particular resolution. Mr Harris starts out by saying, "That, in the opinion of this House, given the misallocation of taxpayers' money during seven years of Liberal and NDP government," and then he goes on to put forward six sug-

gestions for change. He's trying to tie the seven years of Liberal and this government's record of spending money on housing to therefore not spending it and not allocating it into health care and other issues.

This is a tactic. This is a tactic by the Conservative opposition, the third party, to try to put forward some reasonable ideas but couch them in a framework that makes it impossible for the Liberal caucus to support.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): What party did you say?

Mr Mahoney: The third party, the Conservative Party, I say to the—

Mrs Marland: The Liberals.

Mr Mahoney: No, the Conservative Party, and that's their tactic. If you take a look, every time they put forward a motion, they might have a couple of good points that otherwise, you never know, even members of the government might support some of the ideas, but then they couch it in a way that makes it impossible to go along with it.

In so doing, they then also, as the leader of the third party did, get up and suggest we should all be non-partisan. I find it rather curious that he stands there and in about a 15-minute speech he tears a strip off the government, tears a strip off the former government and then invites other members in this place to stand up and be non-partisan and simply embrace his ideology and his ideas. I have a bit of a problem with the credibility of the leader of the third party because he's simply playing a political game, I say particularly to the folks at home watching. He plays a game by putting forward some suggestions but wrapping it in such an unacceptable package that no one in this Legislature could support it.

Having said that, I want to take a moment to address the concerns of the Conservative Party and the response of the government with regard to non-profit housing. I spent nine years on the board of a non-profit housing corporation in the region of Peel. For the final year of that tenure I was the president of the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. I think this Housing minister and many others in the past would admit that Peel Non-Profit is one of the finest organizations in delivering a quality product that is a home. We have to think of it in terms of what they're delivering.

The attitude of the Tories is that it's just bricks and mortar and nails and wood and dollars. They don't think that we're actually building communities and homes. Who do they think builds these non-profit housing projects? Their leader's comments and his resolution would give you the impression that this is, I believe the words were, "government housing."

I'll tell you what government housing is and was. It's the Ontario Housing Corp, started by the Tory government, that has created a number of ghettos around this province and serious difficulties, prior to the implementation of a comprehensive policy of the federal government feeding down some subsidy dollars through the provincial government to, ultimately, local regional authorities. That involves really a tripartite agreement with Ottawa, Queen's Park and, in the case of my community, the region of Peel.

In Ottawa there is an excellent housing corporation that develops non-profit housing. They're all over the province. They've been developed in cooperation with the community. Yes, they cost money. No one can argue that.

Interjection: Taxpayers' money.

Mr Mahoney: Taxpayers' money, you're darned tootin'. They serve taxpayers.

In fact, when you think about the money that is generated from a non-profit housing development, think of it in terms of the construction jobs; think of it in terms of the building products; think of it in terms of all the soft services and the planning and the consultants and everybody who gets involved in delivering these homes to the marketplace; think of it in terms of fridges and stoves; think of it in terms of laundry equipment; think of it in terms of families moving in and actually furnishing their units and buying their furniture etc from the businesses in the community. The financial spinoff to any kind of housing project is really quite astronomical.

What the leader of the third party is attempting to do is to suggest that this government, or the former Liberal government, should abandon unilaterally any concept of working with community groups. I would refer you to Sampaguita Village, a community in my own area built with the help of the Filipino community; there's the Mississauga Italian Canadian Benevolent Association; and I have a group of people in the Polish community who are meeting with me now, attempting to get the minister to assist them with some allocation. There are many different people who benefit from a good non-profit housing program and a co-op program.

Having said that, you wind up in this debate with the Tories on the right side of the issue saying, "Abandon it all and allow the private sector to deliver all housing." You wind up with the socialists on the other side of it saying: "We're going to socialize everything. We're going to put people out of the rental housing business. We're going to bring in the most draconian rent control legislation that any government has ever delivered. We are going to force landlords to wind up with devalued apartments so that in essence they lose all of their equity." That's what happens, they lose all of their equity.

This government, according to the Premier—he was quoted as having said that if they don't want to be in the business, we'll buy them out. That is clearly the plan of this government. They're doing it in other areas. The unfortunate part of it is, what you really need is a comprehensive program where I could agree with the leader of the third party and some of the statements with regard to the problems in rent control. They were introduced by his government and they were exacerbated by our government. I clearly admit that and have said so publicly. But they are being ensconced at totally unacceptable levels by this government with the ideology that it wants all private sector rental accommodation to be converted to public housing. So I could agree with some parts of the leader of the third party's resolution if he weren't attempting to couch it in such political terms and then suggest that we should all be non-partisan. It is extremely unfortunate that this happens.

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I heard the minister talk about how careful they are about the way they spend money. The reality is that no one in this province believes this government is careful about the way it spends money. We have seen record deficits. We have seen a complete commitment to the ideology with the labour reforms that are going to drive people out of work.

The reality is, Mr Speaker, I suggest to you, that housing is really a poverty issue. It's an issue for the jobless; it's an issue for single women who have to spend so much of their money on rent that they can't afford food and wind up in food banks, so it's a poverty issue. It's a women's issue, it's a minority issue, it's a young persons' issue, and clearly it's a business issue that says this government should recognize that it needs a comprehensive housing policy where it should back off its rent control, it should continue to work with regional housing authorities to provide non-profits and co-ops, and it should continue to work with charity groups and other non-profit groups to deliver senior citizens' homes and communities for families. But at the same time it should not institute the Sewell commission, which is just another layer of red tape.

I never worked with Mr Martin on council, as some of the former Metro politicians around here did, but I know his reputation. To pay Dale Martin \$100,000-plus a year to expedite development so that he can speed up the planning process in some way is just laughable. You are creating—

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): It's working.

Mr Mahoney: It is not working at all. What's happening is that you're creating levels of bureaucracy that are going to slow down the planning process. Believe me, the municipal people in many of our cities and towns across this province are sophisticated enough to understand what's right for their communities. They don't need Dale Martin coming in and telling them how they should be processing development applications when he doesn't know the first damn thing about it. In fact, his claim to fame was that he stalled development and became an expert on how to muck up the system at the Ontario Municipal Board. This is the kind of mentality we're dealing with in this government.

So I say to the leader of the third party that it's unfortunate, when you write these resolutions, that you don't perhaps sit down with us. If you truly believed in putting forth an alternative from an opposition perspective, maybe we could have worked out something together. Some of our policies would align themselves against the socialist hordes that are destroying the private sector and have only just begun, I would suggest. We're going to have to do everything we can to stop them from totally eliminating the private sector from the housing industry.

In closing, because I know my critic needs a substantial amount of time to respond to the minister and because the other member of the committee that dealt with rent controls wants to address the Legislature, I would just ask this government that when it makes these decisions, whether it's on rent control or any aspect of dealing with the private sector, to think in terms of the snowballing effect that occurs. When you put people out of rental housing, we're

talking about a lot of moms and pops who bought their rental apartment unit and who have suffered and who do all of their repairs on their own. We're not talking about big conglomerates that own thousands of units and don't care about the people who live in them. We're talking about real people. It all creates jobs.

What we need is a comprehensive housing policy from this government that says it's going to support the private sector in rental housing, that it's going to support the private sector in developing low-cost, affordable housing and that it's going to continue with a comprehensive policy of non-profit and co-op housing with all of the very many worthwhile community groups who deserve their support.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate on the motion from Mr Harris? The honourable member for Mississauga South.

Mrs Marland: I'm very happy to rise in the House today and speak in support of the motion by my leader, Mike Harris. Today's debate is primarily about the housing policies of the NDP government and the changes advocated by the Progressive Conservative Party to ensure that all Ontarians have safe, affordable and decent housing.

On a broader level, though, our resolution is about the failure of the Bob Rae socialist government to set priorities in terms of human need. As members of provincial Parliament we all spend a great deal of time trying to help people who have problems with the provincial government. For instance, we see constituents who are in pain and require surgery, but because their operation is considered elective they have to wait several months. We have constituents with Alzheimer's disease who are on long waiting lists for nursing home beds. These people have urgent needs that are not being met by this government.

We also have constituents who have been on waiting lists for non-profit housing for years because the government cannot afford to build non-profit housing for all needy Ontarians. Yet for selfish ideological reasons the Bob Rae socialist government refuses to consider direct shelter allowances because such a system accepts capitalism and the private sector. The NDP chooses to ignore the evidence that for no more than we now spend to house 68,000 families in non-profit units Ontario could fund a shelter allowance program that would help all of the 250,000 Ontario families that spend more than one quarter of their income on rent.

This socialist government has misdirected taxpayers' money towards expensive government-funded housing which is not helping enough needy families and is preventing the government from meeting other pressing needs. The NDP has also ensured that the provincial government will have to build all new rental housing in Ontario because of its punitive rent control bills which have frightened off potential owners since they will be unable to receive a fair return on their investment.

As well, this government has committed tenants to living in run-down housing because the NDP rent control legislation makes it impossible for property owners to afford necessary repairs.

In light of this serious situation, we call on the government to undertake a comprehensive review of its housing policies in order to do the following: to examine the government's involvement in non-profit housing; to establish a shelter allowance program that will give all needy Ontarians the means to afford decent shelter; to promote home ownership; to improve infrastructure planning; to replace damaging rent controls with other forms of tenant protection; and to promote the involvement of the private sector in all aspects of housing development in Ontario. Together, these six steps will ensure that the people of Ontario are properly housed and get the best value for their taxpayers' dollars.

Starting with the first step, our party recognizes that non-profit housing has played an important role in providing affordable shelter. As a past board member of the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp I have had firsthand experience with the non-profit developments administered by the region of Peel. They are well-managed, pleasant communities which provide an excellent quality of life to the people who live in them. As an alternative to the Ontario Housing Corp projects, non-profit housing is superior because of the income blending and the smaller scale of development, both of which have prevented the ghettoization that has marred many of the Ontario Housing projects.

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Unfortunately, non-profit housing has become unaffordable as a means of solving our shortage of affordable housing. Last year, when the standing committee on estimates reviewed the Housing ministry's estimates, I asked for and received a breakdown of what the province spends to subsidize each non-profit housing program, including projections for the next five years. By the end of the current year, we will be spending \$664,000 to subsidize just 94,000 units. Not including the additional units that were promised in the last budget, we will be spending over \$1 billion a year by 1995 and housing only 115,000 families.

Some of the subsidy levels for recent projects have been shocking. One was \$2,500 a month, enough to carry a mortgage on a house worth \$245,000. Another was \$1,900 for a bachelor apartment, an amazing amount considering that in Toronto the average rent for a bachelor apartment is \$490 a month.

We must find a way to help more people with less money. To do so, our party advocates a system of shelter allowances. A shelter allowance is a government subsidy that is given directly to people who are in need based on an income test. The most recent Ontario study of shelter allowances was prepared by the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario. Using FRPO's most conservative model, which would help all 250,000 Ontario families that spend more than a quarter of their income on rent, a shelter allowance system would cost the province of Ontario \$410 million. That works out to an average of \$137 per month for each assisted household.

Here's an example of how the system could work. If a family in Toronto has an income of \$30,000 a year, it is spending more than it can afford if its rent exceeds one quarter of its income, that is, \$625 a month. If that family, based on its size, requires a two-bedroom unit, the average

rent for such a unit in Metropolitan Toronto is \$724, \$99 more than it can afford. The family would therefore receive a subsidy of \$99 a month, which it could use to rent an apartment of its choice.

This is the most important point of all. The real advantage to direct shelter allowances is that you don't decide for that individual where he's going to live. They have a choice of where they live, the community they want to live in, the building they want to live in. We don't put them into buildings that have a label of "government subsidy." We no longer would have this stigma of living in subsidized buildings. We would be able to eliminate that completely and look after four times as many people.

Marion Steele, a professor of economics at the University of Guelph who has written a study of shelter subsidies, says that a shelter allowance is "a way of helping low-income households avoid the psychic and monetary costs of a move. It is an instrument to increase security of tenure." Professor Steele points out several other beneficial goals of a shelter allowance program as follows: reducing the pressure to construct more public housing, lessening the inequity between low-income households that are public housing tenants and those that are not, and reducing the pressure to continue and tighten rent control.

Professor Steele's study concludes that a housing allowance does indeed deliver assistance to the neediest and only to the neediest. Her study also found that there was not a noticeable increase in housing consumption in those provinces that have implemented shelter programs.

"So," you might say, "a shelter allowance system sounds great, but where do we find \$410 million a year without increasing taxes?" I suggest we cancel the non-profit housing that has been planned but has not yet come on stream. Between fiscal 1991-92 and 1993-94, the amount to be spent on non-profit subsidies will increase by \$445 million a year, enough for a shelter subsidy program. Yes, we would have 37,700 fewer units of non-profit housing, but a shelter subsidy program would put 250,000 needy households in existing vacant apartments and help stimulate a recovery in rental housing construction.

There is a lot more I could say about shelter subsidies, but I want to consider the next point in our resolution: the need to "implement a more timely regulatory approvals process which will facilitate greater social and economic opportunity through home ownership."

During the review of the Ministry of Housing's estimates last fall, I pointed out that home ownership never appears as a priority in the NDP socialist government's consultation paper, *A Housing Framework for Ontario*. In estimates, this Minister of Housing made statements such as, "In my view, there is nothing wrong with living in rental housing all your life," and, "Now people can make a choice. They can rent money from a bank or a trust company and call themselves home owners, or other people will decide in preference to rent a house, if they have the money, even though they might own it and pay the bank." This socialist government has discounted the dream of most Ontarians to own their own home.

As Morley Kells, president of the Ontario Urban Development Institute, said about the minister's comments:

"It would appear that as a matter of principle, Gigantes (the NDP) dislikes the interest amounts people are forced to pay on mortgages. It also seems that they neither understand nor value the equity that can be earned in a home through the process of appreciation."

For most of us, buying a home is a way of gaining equity which, combined with RRSPs and pension plans, helps ensure that when we retire we can look after ourselves and not be a burden to the government and future generations of taxpayers. Such independence is of a great benefit to our society and our economy.

As well, the home construction industry is one of the driving forces of Ontario's economy. However, as our resolution says, there is an urgent need to revise and implement a more timely regulatory approvals process.

The NDP government has recognized the urgent need to improve the regulatory approvals process, as evidenced in the plans outlined by the Minister of Municipal Affairs in April to speed up the decision-making process for development proposals. However, these are just interim measures until the report of the Sewell commission is delivered. It remains to be seen if Mr Sewell will be able to produce recommendations that will speed up the wheel of the planning process and meet the demands for housing while protecting the environment.

Moving to the next point in our resolution, I will spend a few moments discussing the need to improve the planning of infrastructure in order to ensure safe, secure and affordable communities.

Most of this province's infrastructure was built under the 42 successive years of Progressive Conservative government. Sadly, this NDP government and the previous Liberal administration have neglected to maintain and renew our infrastructure. As a result, we have decaying bridges, gridlocked highways, burst water mains and schools that consist primarily of portables. Even the major Liberal and NDP funding commitments, such as the Let's Move transportation program and the Jobs Ontario capital fund, are just a drop in the infrastructure bucket.

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Like a house, a community needs a sound foundation, and the infrastructure is that foundation. If we neglect our infrastructure work rather than keeping up with the maintenance and renewal, the costs could bankrupt us, especially when we consider the new infrastructure that must accompany growth. The infrastructure working group that provided input to the report *GTA 2021* identified \$35 billion worth of transit and road improvements that will be needed in the next three decades, plus another \$14.5 billion for water and sewer mains and other development infrastructures, and this is just for the greater Toronto area.

The next point in our resolution calls on the government to replace rent controls in Ontario with new forms of tenant protection because the NDP rent control policies lead to a deterioration of quality, affordable and accessible housing.

I spoke at length on the problems arising from rent control during the recent debate on Bill 121, and as I said then, Ontario's tenants, property owners, construction workers and rental housing stock have been dealt a staggering blow

by the Bob Rae government. As a result of the NDP's rent control bills, Ontario's existing rental housing stock is deteriorating because property owners cannot recover the costs of necessary repairs. There has also been a virtual halt to the construction of rental housing because financial institutions are loath to lend money when the borrower cannot guarantee a steady income due to the new provisions for rent reductions. The market for rental housing renovation and construction has therefore dried up, resulting in a loss of at least 25,000 construction jobs.

My party recognizes that tenants need protection of their rights, but rent control is not providing that protection. A shelter allowance program which ensures security of tenure in decent housing would help those tenants and property owners maintain a stock of quality, affordable and accessible rental housing in Ontario.

Finally, as the last point in our resolution suggests, the Bob Rae government has refused to recognize the significant role the private sector should play in all aspects of housing development in Ontario. The NDP housing policy shut out the private sector. Property owners and the construction sector have been dealt a death blow by Bill 121, while government-funded non-profit housing is the only new rental housing that is being built. Developers are still facing a regulatory obstacle course. Our infrastructure is falling apart for want of money, yet this socialist government can find \$1 billion a year to spend on non-profit housing. Clearly, nothing short of a comprehensive review of the NDP government's housing policies can save Ontario from a bleak housing future.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Further debate on Mr Harris's opposition day motion 5?

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): It's a pleasure to rise today in the House to speak against this resolution. I think anyone who had all their faculties and was examining this resolution would certainly give some very strong consideration to not voting or supporting this resolution, and that's certainly the position I take. I want to tell you, Mr Speaker, I have all my faculties, and I won't be supporting this resolution.

I want to speak to item 6 of the leader of the third party's motion, and that says, "Promote the involvement of the private sector in all aspects of housing development in Ontario."

If there's concern about the involvement of the private sector in non-profit housing in Ontario, let's make one thing perfectly clear, and that's the fact that the private sector develops, the private sector builds and in many cases the private sector even manages non-profit housing in Ontario. If that's not involvement, if that's not allowing them an avenue to be involved in non-profit housing, then I don't know what is. The only thing it doesn't do is own the housing. It is owned by the community, and I think that's very positive. In fact, non-profit housing has been the mainstay for many contractors and professionals offering services to the building industry.

It may not be a well-known fact in this Legislature, but I was the part owner of a construction company and I know what is involved in the building of homes. I had

employees and I had all the problems and all the good things that go along with having employees working for you. Let me tell you, Mr Speaker, that when you build a home, there isn't just one person who benefits from that. When non-profit housing comes into a community many people benefit from that. Contractors like plumbers benefit, contractors like electricians, the people who operate the machinery to dig the hole for the basement, the people who come in and pour the basement and, indeed, those plumbers and carpenters who come in and build the house all benefit.

So all the dollars that are invested in non-profit housing end up in the community, and if you think the community doesn't care, you should be in your community when a non-profit housing situation opens up. The mayors come out. Recently, in my part of rural Ontario, in Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings, when some non-profit housing opened in Picton, Warden Dick Evans came out, Mayor Charles Hepburn came out, all the contractors came out. Reverend Beaudrie, who managed the whole organization to develop and build the non-profit housing, came out. Many people from the community came out. They saw it as a positive thing.

The members of the opposition, at least the members of the third party—I'm not sure who they're consulting, but they're not consulting the people this government consults, and this government consults widely. We heard members from the Liberal Party speak today who said they're not going to support this motion. We're not going to support this motion. I wonder, are the members of the third party going to have the opportunity for a free vote in this or are they going to be whipped, are they going to collectively get behind their leader and vote to support this resolution? This will be very interesting indeed.

Where are the apartments the member for Mississauga South speaks of that will house all those people in need for a \$130-per-month subsidy? I'd like to know the answer to that question.

Mrs Marland: You could read the newspaper ads.

Mr Johnson: But I'm not directing a question to that member, Mr Speaker, I'm directing it to you.

Mrs Marland: I'm answering his question. They're in the Toronto Star.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Order, please. I'd ask the honourable member for Mississauga South to please come to order.

Mr Johnson: As I said before, non-profit housing is a very important and valuable asset in any community. A Thornhill kitchen cabinet manufacturer says: "Our company employs more than 120 tax-paying citizens. The fact is that co-op and not-for-profit housing makes up more than 80% of our production."

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for York Mills will please come to order.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I was just trying to help him, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The honourable member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings has the floor. Please continue.

Mr Johnson: Thank you, Mr Speaker. A Toronto architect says: "Our industry is on the brink of collapse. Private sector construction has virtually stopped and we are in danger of losing the human machinery and structure of a vital manufacturing sector." So architects too benefit from this provincial government's investment of \$1 billion in the province.

Project and construction management people are very concerned and they know the dollars invested by this government go into their respective communities and make their communities viable. Indeed, if we were to withdraw the dollars invested in non-profit housing it would be very detrimental to any recovery we could imagine. In fact, I would like to think that the dollars invested have contributed significantly to making sure that the recession this province is in hasn't gone lower and been more drastic than we're in fact having to deal with today.

Clearly I won't be supporting this motion or this resolution.

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Mrs Marland: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I thought the member would like to know that I was not talking about withdrawing the money that's currently invested. I simply said not to spend any.

The Acting Speaker: That's not a point of order.

Mr Johnson: It's in every community across this province that the dollars invested in non-profit housing have helped. Certainly we know that in the Toronto area, which has been very drastically hit by this recession, there are some statistics here that suggest that "multiple-unit starts increased, by a very strong 273%, to 1,654 units, compared to 444 a year ago. Assisted rental housing contributed most to the increase in starts, reaching 1,181 units. 'Assisted housing has been a mainstay of the Toronto construction industry in 1992,' said Willard Dunning, senior market analyst at CMHC's Toronto branch office. During the first five months of this year social housing has contributed 44% of all starts in the Toronto CMA."

Clearly there are experts in many fields who see that the dollars invested by this province, by this government, have a very valuable and important role to play in maintaining jobs. Often the opposition says, "Where are these jobs?" They want to know where these jobs are. The jobs are in the construction industry where we, the government of Ontario, have invested dollars to create construction in Ontario, to create jobs, and that's very important during this very difficult recession.

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I guess it's a pleasure. You're always supposed to say that, anyway, when you stand to speak in these debates.

Interjection: It's a challenge.

Mr Brown: It is a challenge today because this is a resolution that in my heart I would like to support.

Interjection: Or at least parts of it.

Mr Brown: Or at least parts of it. But we have, as members know, "That in the opinion of this House, given the misallocation of taxpayers' money during seven years of Liberal and NDP government...." We all know why that line is in there. That line is in there so that Liberals cannot possibly vote for this resolution even if they so choose. It's just one of those little political prankster things that my friends to the left—but really to the right—like to do, and so I would like to start by indicating that of course I cannot support this resolution.

But looking down, the first point the leader of the third party makes concerns non-profit and co-op housing. I recall two years ago, or perhaps three now, being in Mr Harris's riding and opening a not-for-profit housing unit. At that time I thought I heard the leader of the third party make very complimentary remarks concerning that particular facility. As a matter of fact, people in the community praised Mr Harris for his help in bringing that facility to North Bay. I shared his views at the time.

The issue is not whether we should have non-profit and the issue is not whether we should have co-ops; it's a balance. It's an issue of value for money. If we are talking about an issue of value for money, certainly I can understand the concerns and the resolution presented here. It is not something that we can do as legislators: waste public dollars or not get the most bang for the buck. I say to you that if this is what Mr Harris indicates by this first point, I can agree with that.

I look at the second point. It talks about shelter allowances and it's one of the things I believe in. I believe it could help to solve the problems in this province. I think it's a very rational way to spend the public dollars and get the people who really need housing into the housing. It makes perfect sense, so I can support that.

Who could not support looking at ways to "revise and implement a more timely regulatory approvals process"? I think anybody who couldn't support that shouldn't be in this House.

I look at improving the planning of our infrastructure. That's the fourth point. I can support that.

We get down to the fifth point, which is about rent control, something that is now near and dear to my heart, because I have suffered through the Bill 4 and Bill 121 deliberations of the standing committee on general government as a member, and latterly the chairman, of that committee. I can tell you that what this government has done in the area of rent control is totally counterproductive for everybody's concern.

I want the members of the government to realize what they have done here. Not only have they confiscated some private sector people's money—and we're not talking about the Reichmanns; we're talking about immigrants who came to this country and thought that making investments in a small apartment building might be the right thing to do so that they could have a pension. Because of Bill 4, because this government had a better idea, they have lost their investment, their life savings.

If I look at it from the tenants' point of view, they were promised by this government one increase tied to inflation. That was it. "Zip. That's what you're going to get." What

have they got? What they have is the potential of a 9% increase this year. That is almost six times the rate of inflation. That is what this government is providing to tenants across the board.

If you look at real dollars and increases, landlords should be somewhat happy these days in that they don't have to justify six per cent, which is four times the rate of inflation. At the same time landlords aren't happy. They can't be, because necessary repairs to buildings aren't going to be done. They have made that abundantly clear, and the record shows that very clearly.

What we have here is a government that is trying to address yesterday's problems. They're not fixing what's happening out there today. What's happening out there today is a vacancy rate in Toronto and other centres that is rising. It's higher than it's been for a long, long time in Toronto, and it's because of the economic situation.

I am angry, as members of this Legislature should be angry. When the government put its case to bring forward Bill 121 and Bill 4, it did so on the basis of people being economically evicted from their apartments. They could never supply us any numbers. We knew that it happened to at least some small extent and that it had to be remedied. But the government decided that was the reason it needed to do this, because there was economic eviction. Well, I'll tell you, there are just as many people in Toronto today as there were then. There's a rising vacancy rate. I can only suggest to you that one heck of a lot of people have been economically evicted. We had contended that the reason for economic eviction was the loss of work, the loss of jobs. This government has failed miserably in addressing that problem.

I'm trying to figure out, when I look at point 5, who won. It certainly wasn't the tenants who are paying six times, or potentially six times, the rate of inflation. It is not the landlords, who are not able to make the necessary repairs to keep those apartments livable, to make them real homes. I don't know who won. It's because we have a government that's fixated with fixing yesterday. We need a government that looks at the future, and this group seems totally unprepared to look forward. Their eyes are clearly fixed on the rearview mirror and they cannot understand why things in this province are as bad as they are.

I will indicate to you today that I cannot support this resolution, for the most part because of the silly introduction, but I will say that much of this resolution reflects my thinking.

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The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Tilson: I have a few brief moments to congratulate our leader, Mike Harris, who introduced this resolution to the House today and, second, to congratulate the critic of the Progressive Conservative Party, Margaret Marland, the member for Mississauga South, for her excellent presentation.

As we've observed through the various hearings that have gone on through Bill 4 and Bill 121—and it was as a result of those pieces of legislation that this resolution was made—we have seen in every jurisdiction in North Amer-

ica and in Europe that rent control, like socialism, doesn't work. Rent controls have produced slums, and tenants have suffered. Books and papers written all over North America have shown that rent controls produce homelessness and all the social problems that go with it.

Why in the world are you getting into something created by the Liberals that's been made even worse by your government? The bureaucracy alone no one can understand. The bureaucracy and the cost of the bureaucracy is absolutely unbelievable. Considering the cutbacks we're having with respect to hospitals and education, where in the world are your priorities?

This resolution put forward by the leader of our party is most timely at the passing of a dreaded piece of legislation, Bill 121, and I urge you all to vote in support of this resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): It's a great pleasure to participate in the debate this afternoon. I come at it from a couple of different perspectives. One, I'm a proud member of a co-op; I live in a co-op. It's my home and it's where my family was raised. It's also a community. I'm very proud to live in that community and I'm very proud to continue to live in that community.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Duignan: There's one particular point I wish to concentrate on in the leader of the third party's motion this afternoon, and that's dealing with the whole question of the rent supplements.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Mills: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: My colleague is making a worthwhile contribution in this debate. He's not allowed to. He's constantly badgered by the third party and I wish it would stop.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Halton North has the floor.

Mr Duignan: My colleague the member for Etobicoke West would have difficulty getting into a co-op. He wouldn't be able to live in the community because of his inability to get on and live with the people in that community.

In an article in the Toronto Star dated late last year, there was an article in relation to rent supplement that came about because of a TV debate around the mayor's race last year. There are a couple of interesting paragraphs in this particular story that I would like to read into the record to set the record straight in regard to rent supplements.

"The rent supplement option was debated thoroughly some 10 years ago and the overwhelming evidence against it and its bad track record is convincing. I have yet to see any credible study that recommends rent supplement programs over social housing supply programs."

It goes on to say: "A rent supplement program is attractive to landlords in soft markets and to landlords with less desirable, poorly located, hard-to-rent units. It's

also attractive to groups who oppose social housing supply because of political grounds. They prefer rent supplements because they keep people in housing units in the private sector.

"It seems that politics, not experience, not evidence or rational debate, drives the lobby for rent supplements. When a committee of the Ontario Legislature debated this issue some 10 year ago in 1981, for example, it recommended that the program be gradually phased out because rent supplement housing is more costly than non-profit and government-owned housing. In tight rental market conditions, private landlords do not renew their rent supplement agreements."

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Here's a perfect example. This guy's making 70 grand a year and you're subsidizing his rent.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Etobicoke West is well aware that the honourable member for Halton North has the floor. If he would only restrain himself, we could get on with the debate.

Mr Stockwell: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I was just pointing out to the Minister of Housing that this member here, earning \$70,000 a year—

The Acting Speaker: Please sit down. That's a point of information; that's not a point of order. The honourable member for Halton North has the floor.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I was looking forward to speaking on this, even giving an input, but for a minute—

The Acting Speaker: That's not a point of order. The member for Yorkview will please be seated. The honourable member for Halton North has the floor.

Mr Duignan: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I could reply to the member for Etobicoke West, but there are some very important points I want to read into the record about rent supplements.

Again, "Financial benefits of rent supplements accrue primarily to the landlord. Tenants do not have the same security of tenure as in public non-profit or cooperative housing because a landlord can terminate rent supplement programs, and it's difficult for the government to project subsidy costs in rent supplement housing."

There was some reference made to studies in North America. There were a series of independent studies, several focused directly on cost-effectiveness, undertaken in the United States following the Nixon administration. They switched to a massive rent supplement program from social housing programs.

The major studies, by the Congressional Research Service in 1976, the Congressional Budget Office in 1979 and by the General Accounting Office in 1980, all concluded that over the medium and long term there is no question that the direct provision of social housing through rehabilitation or new construction is much more cost-effective than rent supplements. The result of the switch to rent supplements in the United States is now recognized to be a financial and social policy disaster, and that's the type of program the third party is advocating for the people of Ontario. People want a decent, affordable place to live.

The leader of the third party does not want that to happen in the province of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): I think the resolution brought forward today clearly indicates where this would take the province of Ontario. Without question, it would take us forward into the past.

It wasn't all that long ago when the Conservative Party was the decision-making collection of individuals in this province, and at that time, I don't have to remind the House, they came up with their giveaway to reward their friends in the development industry. It was called the Ontario rental construction loan program.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Ferguson: Back in 1985 they came up with the Ontario rental construction loan program, and this was a way of rewarding their friends in the development industry. In fact, not only did they reward their friends but they assisted their friends at public expense, at the public trough.

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The giveaway the Conservative Party participated in on that date amounted to \$149 million. That was the giveaway. Not only did they lend money out to their friends in the development industry under the guise of building affordable housing; they lent it out interest-free for 15 years. In fact, in this province they created the Million-Dollar Club among the developers. That was their solution to providing affordable housing to those most in need in Ontario.

We don't want to see this province go forward into the past. We don't want to see this province any longer engage in those kinds of practices. We are doing something I think is most responsible: We are taking capital dollars, putting them into projects, and at the end of the day those projects will be paid for and those projects will be around for years to come to benefit all the residents of the province. We won't be putting money into the Million-Dollar Club that they put their dollars into that we're still paying for today with no benefits at all. No benefits are being accrued to the ordinary resident of Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I am pleased to join in this debate today, particularly since the Tory opposition day motion highlights the NDP preoccupation with rent control and non-profit housing to the exclusion of any of the other options in housing.

The Liberal caucus agrees that the NDP has no vision to meet the province's housing needs, but I must say that I was quite surprised at the wording of this motion. As several of my Liberal colleagues have pointed out, the Conservatives do not want the support of the Liberal caucus on this motion. They start out, "That, in the opinion of this House, given the misallocation of taxpayers' money during seven years of Liberal and NDP government...."

Not one word of their speeches has substantiated that there was any misallocation of taxpayers' money during seven years of Liberal government.

Interjection: Five.

Ms Poole: Sorry, five years of Liberal government. It just seemed longer than it was.

When you go into their first point about non-profit and co-op housing, I now find out from the Conservative Housing critic that she wants all future non-profit co-op housing projects cancelled. To use the words of a former Conservative member, Sam Cureatz, I find this passing strange, because, Mr Speaker, if I can be heard over the din, when I looked through Hansard to see what their previous position on non-profit housing was, the Tories seem to have conveniently forgotten their record from 1985 to 1990. In fact they were extremely critical of the Liberal government for not building enough subsidized housing. The Tories forgot—

Mr Mills: Tell me what Sam said.

Ms Poole: What Sam says? "This is passing strange." That was his favoured expression. And this is passing strange, because the Tories have forgotten that during the last decade and a half of their administration, housing assistance and infrastructure renewal came to a virtual standstill.

I had the pleasure of leafing through some quotes from Hansard. Many of these members are still in the Conservative caucus. We have the member for Markham, Mr Cousens, who was Conservative Housing critic. On November 5, 1987, he said:

"Through this crisis maybe there now is hope if this government—having recognized in an election pledge of August 22 that 102,000 homes were needed in two years—knows what is needed. It knows why it is needed. Now what we need to see coming from this government is when it is going to have some solutions coming to the fore...When are those 102,000 homes going to be available for people who need them?"

He goes on and on and talks about how he hopes the Treasurer will give the Minister of Housing the money for 102,000 subsidized homes.

This goes on. November 23, 1987: Same story from the Conservative Housing critic. December 7, 1987. May 19, 1988: He says that the building of 30,000 non-profit units in the next three to five years is a minute drop in the bucket.

We go on to June 21, 1988, where he criticizes the government for not building enough new units. We go on to December 14, 1988, where the Conservative critic says: "Let's see it"—the government—"work a little harder, because it has not begun to reach its election goal of 192,000 rental units by the end of this year. So far, the government is still a failure."

Finally, on February 16, 1989, Mr Cousens talks about how the minister is not building enough and calls for the resignation of the Minister of Housing. Because she could not build 102,000 in the two-year period, he wanted her resignation. That is just the member for Markham, who was the Conservative Housing critic at the time.

Then we have the member for Mississauga South. Despite what she said today, Margaret Marland, on May 21, 1987, said: "We have a housing crisis in this province. Albeit it's been with us a number of years since the inflation of the 1970s and high interest rates of the 1980s, however here again, because of the special nature of our city and our unprecedented growth, our need for non-profit housing is tremendous."

Then she asked for more non-profit housing for Peel. She does the same on November 17, 1987. She says: "The Premier promised 102,000. Now the government's only committing to 66,000. When's the rest of it going to come?"

June 6, 1985. July 7, 1986. These are all requests from the member for Mississauga South for more subsidized housing. We have October 21, 1986; January 22, 1987; January 26, 1987; November 1987. That's it for the member for Mississauga South.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Would the honourable member please take her seat for a moment. The honourable member for Eglinton has the floor now. There are several members in the House who have been speaking for the last five or 10 minutes, calling across the floor. You know it's against the rules of the House to do that. I ask you please to respect the honourable member for Eglinton, who's making her speech on this very important issue.

Ms Poole: Actually, a member of this House whom I quite respect, the member for S-D-G & East Grenville, Mr Villeneuve, carried on the cry for more subsidized housing from the Liberal government. He said: "First, there's a growing shortage of non-profit for seniors in rural Ontario. In my own riding, for instance, we've identified a need for senior non-profit housing in three areas."

Then we have the former leader, Andy Brandt, the member for Sarnia, who said on November 9, 1987, "It simply is unacceptable to those of us on this side of the House" that the government has not built 102,000 non-profit housing units.

I've saved the best for last: The leader of the third party, the leader of the Tory Party, Michael Harris, the member for Nipissing. On November 5, 1987, he complained that not nearly enough new units were being built. He said:

"The current supply of rental housing in our urban centres has reached unacceptable levels....The waiting list for socially assisted housing is longer than it has ever been....The number of new units constructed is less than what is needed just to keep up with the year-over-year increase in demand, let alone any move on the backlog."

Those are the Conservatives for you, Mr Speaker. They talk a good storm, but they've changed their policy in midstream.

But when we're talking about non-profit housing, what does disquiet me about what the government is doing is that it's made no move to reassess the need for non-profit co-op housing but instead keeps turning out huge numbers of potential allocations and yet there is no reassessment of

how the program's going. It is turning out these 30,000, but last year it promised another 10,000. This year's budget promised another 20,000. Yet there is no review of this to ascertain that the taxpayers are getting value for money, and that is something I want to see from this government.

I also want them to show us that those most in need are the ones getting the non-profit and co-op housing, not their rich friends in the NDP who are taking advantage of the system.

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The second point is that the Tories have called for shelter allowances. I can support that. I think there should be far more subsidized housing in existing units. This is something called in situ placement that was developed by the Liberal government. I would like to see that magnified because it is a way we can get a lot of money for the taxpayers' dollar. I encourage this government to look at that option.

Then the Conservatives called for infrastructure changes and improved planning. Of course, that's something we want. The Liberal government did provide infrastructure planning and gave large sums of money for it. The Tories may feel that the money we spent on infrastructure was a waste of money, that it was misallocated, but we as the Liberal government felt it was important to make up for the loss during the period of growth which preceded the recession to make up for that lost ground on housing infrastructure needs the Tories left behind.

On April 25, 1992, there was an article on real estate in the Toronto Star by Warren Potter. He talks about the high cost of land and the high cost of building. He says:

"We tend to blame the current politicians for these problems but the lack of developable land cannot be blamed on New Democrats or the previous Liberal administration.

"The blame should be placed at the feet of the Conservative government that ruled this province for more than 30 years."

Saul "Merrick told me the former Tory government is responsible for the high prices of land.

"In the 1960s and 1970s they should have been putting in trunk sewers all over the Metro area for land to be serviced," he said.

"There wouldn't be a shortage (now) and our kids would have been able to buy a house at a reasonable price."

This is the Tory opposition day and that's exactly worth the paper it was printed on.

The other thing the Tories have implied is that the Liberals have misallocated the dollars and that they have not fostered good housing programs. Just looking at the Liberal programs can take your breath away, there are so many of them: convert-to-rent, Renterprise, rent geared to income; low-rise rehabilitation; Housing First policy for provincial lands; Ontario home ownership savings plan; the new community of Seaton for 90,000 people—this government's done nothing about it—development of a 25% affordable guideline for municipalities; the Homes Now program; the Rental Housing Protection Act; the

amendment to the Landlord and Tenant Act giving rights to roomers and boarders and also giving rights to tenants about protection so they could keep their pets, and policies to give victims of family violence first right at the Ontario Housing Corp.

But one thing the Liberal government recognized was that the private sector must be involved. The private sector does have a role. During the five years of Liberal government the private sector produced an average of over 10,000 rental units per year. Can this government say this now? No, because their policies have stifled building, have stifled free enterprise and have stifled any opportunity to get our housing policy off the ground.

The fifth item the Tories have on their agenda is that they want to disband rent controls with new forms of tenant protection. I have heard this before. I heard this when the Tory leader was running in the leadership race. He said, and he won the Tory leadership on this platform, "If I am elected leader, there will be no rent controls in this province." But I ran in the 1990 election and the Conservatives had changed their tune by then. They said: "Oh no, that wasn't what Mr Harris meant. Mr Harris just meant that really we were going to protect tenants, but in a different way." When we asked them what this different way was they didn't know, and they still don't know but think it sounds good. But the tenants aren't deceived. That party has never stood for tenant protection. They don't now and likely with this leader they never will.

The other question I have to ask is if the people of this province are going to trust the Tories to bring in tenant protection. This Tory caucus is the one that had its act together so much on the housing program—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Eglinton has the floor. There is far too much noise in the House. The Chair can't hear the honourable member speaking at this point, so please be respectful.

Ms Poole: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thought I was almost yelling with my passion, but the Tories are very noisy. I don't think they liked what I had to say. I would not trust this Conservative caucus. This Conservative caucus is so inept that when it came to rent control legislation it voted against its own amendment. Can you believe it? They didn't even know what their amendment was and they voted against it.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Stop the clock. The honourable member for Simcoe West will come to order.

Ms Poole: In other words I wouldn't trust the Tory caucus to fight its way out of a paper bag, it is so inept. How can you understand a group that would vote against its own amendments?

The last part talks about involvement of the private sector. That is something we need. We need a balance. We need non-profit co-op housing. We need the private sector. We need the involvement and partnership of all sectors in dealing with the housing problems that face us today. There are parts of this that the Liberal caucus could support, even though it's a joke that it's coming from the

Conservative caucus, but we will not support any motion which is put forward by the Conservatives specifically designed—

Interjections.

Ms Poole: Mr Speaker, thank you.

1804

The House divided on Mr Harris's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes—16

Arnott, Carr, Cunningham, Eves, Harris, Jackson, Marland, McLean, Murdoch (Grey), Runciman, Sterling, Stockwell, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wilson (Simcoe West).

Nays—79

Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Bradley, Brown, Buchanan, Callahan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cleary,

Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Dadamo, Duignan, Eddy, Elston, Fawcett, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grandmaître, Haeck, Hampton, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Henderson, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Lessard.

Mackenzie, Mahoney, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Mancini, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, McClelland, McLeod, Mills, Morin, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), North, O'Connor, O'Neil (Quinte), Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Poirier, Poole, Pouliot, Ramsay, Rizzo, Silipo, Sola, Sullivan, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Ward (Don Mills), Wessinger, White, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winninger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The Acting Speaker: It being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 1808.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
31A	1112	1	14	Mr Carr moved first reading of Bill 41, An Act respecting the
31A	1113	2	9	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 42, An Act respecting
31A	1114	2	25	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 43, An Act respecting
31A	1115	1	58	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 44, An Act respecting
31A	1116	2	19	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 45, An Act respecting
31A	1117	2	9	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 46, An Act respecting
31A	1118	2	9	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 47, An Act respecting
31A	1119	2	9	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 48, An Act respecting
31A	1120	1	32	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 49, An Act respecting
31A	1121	1	31	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 50, An Act respecting
31A	1122	1	55	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 51, An Act respecting
31A	1123	2	11	Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill 52, An Act respecting
31A	1124	1	48	Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 53, An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the effect of the proposed amend-
31A	1125	1	11	Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 54, An Act respecting
31B	1127	2	39	Mr Harnick moved first reading of Bill 55, An Act respecting
31B	1128	2	9	Mrs Marland moved first reading of Bill 56, An Act respecting
31B	1129	1	25	Mr Wilson moved first reading of Bill 57, An Act respecting
31B	1129	2	44	Mr Tilson moved first reading of Bill 58, An Act respecting
31B	1130	2	13	Mr Arnott moved first reading of Bill 59, An Act respecting
31B	1131	1	11	Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 60, An Act respecting
32	1168	2	30	out of some proposed rule changes. The member for St Cath-

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winner, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	IND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaitre, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 10 June 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mercredi 10 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 10 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

LONG-TERM CARE

Mr Charles Beer (York North): I want to bring to the attention of members an excellent new book prepared by the Reverend Albert Revell of Newmarket, entitled *Caring For Seniors—A Model of Pastoral Care for the Elderly in Long-term Care Facilities*.

Reverend Revell is currently the pastoral care director for the York-Simcoe ministries, an eight-year-old inter-denominational caring program for seniors. He is also the chaplain to the Newmarket Veterans Association, the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 426 and the York Regional Police.

In the foreword to his book Reverend Revell states:

"The intent of this book is to create an awareness of the awesome need for laypersons to be involved in ministry to seniors who reside in long-term care facilities or who are shut away in their homes and apartments. Its focus is to help clergy, their churches and the laypeople to understand what ecumenical as well as denominational care giving is all about."

Of particular interest is the chapter on the multifaceted needs of our seniors. How can laypeople of one particular faith minister to those of another? The book gives useful and pertinent suggestions to those involved in working with seniors of various cultural and religious backgrounds.

Seniors, like everyone else, have a variety of needs. Reverend Revell reminds us that there is a key need for pastoral care. I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming Reverend Revell to this Legislature and recognizing his important work in pastoral care.

LEGAL FEES

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I would like to bring forward a concern that many members of the Upper Canada Law Society and the constituents within my riding of Dufferin-Peel have shared with me.

The Attorney General has introduced yet another form of taxation in the province of Ontario. This will allow the NDP government to tax the dead. Perhaps the worst hypocrisy of this situation is that the Attorney General felt that an increase that amounts to three times the previous rate was not worth a statement in the Legislature, let alone a debate on his edict. How can this government pass along transfer payments of 1%, 2% and 2%—"Be creative"—and then increase some taxes by three times?

What the honourable member fails to realize is that these increases are yet another tax that the consumer will have to pay in the course of doing business. We continue to be the highest-taxed jurisdiction in North America.

The average person's access to the courts will be restricted because of an increase in court fees. In an attempt

to encourage new home buyers, the federal government has recently decreased from 10% to 5% the down payment required for the purchase of a new home. This NDP government chooses to increase the administrative cost of purchasing a home to three times the previous rate.

The federal government giveth and the provincial government taketh away. The great keepers of the little guy are continuing to hit the consumer with taxes, taxes and more taxes.

BIKE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I'm very pleased to rise in the House today to bring to your attention Bike Awareness Week in Peterborough. Bike Awareness Week is aimed at promoting pollution-free, non-motorized transport in and around Peterborough.

Today the Peterborough Bikeways Committee will distribute a map of recreational cycling routes in the county and city through the Peterborough Examiner. Tonight at 7 o'clock there will be a slide presentation on children's bike safety at the firehall on Sherbrooke Street. This Sunday at 1 o'clock, all in Peterborough with access to a bike—moms, dads, the kids and grandparents—are encouraged to tie a coloured ribbon or streamer to their bikes and pedal to demonstrate their support for better cycling in Peterborough.

Bicycling is the cleanest, healthiest and most energy-efficient mode of transport. In a 10-mile commute a cyclist requires only 360 calories of renewable energy; a car driver uses up 18,600 calories of non-renewable energy.

Choosing bike travel over car travel means substantially less pollution. Cars produce 2.6 pounds of hydrocarbons and 20 pounds of carbon dioxide per mile travelled, in contrast to the emission-free bicycle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Peterborough Cycling Club and Peterborough Bikeways for their hard work in promoting better cycling. We hope to see everybody on their bikes this week.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): On Monday morning Dr Kathy Kovacs, a psychiatrist at the Royal Ottawa Hospital, told a radio interviewer that cutbacks in psychiatric beds in Ottawa-Carleton have created a serious problem.

The interviewer said: "We've been hearing it for a long time now. There just aren't enough hospital beds to take care of the psychiatrically ill, and last week both the Queensway Carleton and Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario chopped a few more. Now, how do you decide which patients will be treated in an emergency ward, and what do you do with those who can't be?"

Dr Kovacs responded: "With great difficulty. It's become an increasing problem. It's really gotten to the point that unless somebody is extremely ill, acutely suicidal or homicidal we just can't take them in. There just aren't any beds."

Later the interviewer asked: "Where are we going here? These are probably not the last beds [cut]. It probably will continue. Does that mean at some point the system starts to tear?" Dr Kovacs responded: "Oh, I think it will and I think it's getting close to that. Families are often the ones that [take] the brunt of the problem and they just can't manage any more, and we frequently have them just give up. And you know, it's having a great effect on everyone, and I think we are close to the point of the whole system tearing."

How can the Treasurer increase the Ministry of Labour budget by \$100 million and shut out the mentally ill?

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Last week I was able to see at first hand the success of a breakfast program at Hillcrest Public School in Owen Sound.

As members will know, our caucus has long been in favour of this government acting as a facilitator between private industry, community groups and boards of education to ensure that our school children start the day with a nutritious meal.

Realizing that studies have shown that malnourished or hungry young people do not perform well academically, the Owen Sound-Grey-Bruce branch of the Red Cross has taken action. In conjunction with other community agencies they've designed a pilot project breakfast program for students in kindergarten to grade 6 at Hillcrest and Alexandra schools. The program, which began in March, will run until the end of the school year and then be assessed. It is funded by donations, not tax dollars. It is open to all children with no means test and is operated by volunteers.

I am delighted to see that Grey is taking an important leadership role in the development of breakfast programs. This is exactly the sort of fiscally responsible initiative my caucus colleagues and I have been advocating for some time. I would like to take this opportunity to urge the government to follow the example set by the Red Cross in my area and encourage ventures of this sort everywhere in Ontario. Our young people deserve this start in life.

1340

FURANO THEATRE COMPANY

Mr Paul Klopp (Huron): This past weekend Huron county's Blyth Festival Theatre became an international culture centre. The Furano Theatre Company of Hokkaido, Japan, presented three performances of its play *Kanashibetsu* to three packed houses and received three prolonged standing ovations.

The people of Huron county understood and responded emotionally to the story of a Japanese town's disintegration after its only industry shut down. *Kanashibetsu* is an inspirational play that breaks through all cultural barriers. It is a powerful and moving story of unemployed youth, abandoned by a greedy, uncaring world, who ultimately realize their only hope for themselves and for us all must be discovered within the human community.

Blyth was the first stop of the Furano Theatre Company's tour to New York. Toronto audiences had the opportunity to see this marvellous play last night and will

have the opportunity this evening at 8 pm at Young People's Theatre. I urge you all to attend.

I'd also like to thank the Ministry of Culture and Communications, which helped put on this play, and all the staff and residents of the Blyth area who treated their guests with the Huron hospitality we're all noted for. I would also like to thank the artistic director, Peter Smith, who took the time to read this play and realized we need to be told this in Canada. Of course, in Huron county we're the leaders, as has happened so many times. I would especially like to thank all those in the area who supported these people and have supported the Blyth Festival for many years. It's proving we need culture and it's very important for all of us.

MENINGITIS

Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall): This past winter parents in eastern Ontario listened carefully to the reports of an outbreak of meningitis in the Ottawa-Carleton region. After monitoring the situation the Ministry of Health ordered a massive immunization campaign for all school-aged children.

At that time I joined the school board directors, the mayor of Cornwall and the representatives from surrounding counties in calling on the Minister of Health to consider such an effort for our area. Members should know that there were three cases of meningitis detected in the Cornwall area, and it was with deep sadness that I learned a boy in Espanola died from meningitis yesterday.

Because of the complexities of meningitis many parents all over Ontario are very anxious to be informed on local cases. Many public offices were flooded with inquiries from concerned parents. I believe the public awareness campaign on meningitis served to address the fears of parents and students. Unfortunately the health unit was not immediately prepared for the onslaught of questions and near-panic.

I hope the Ministry of Health is now working closely with the eastern Ontario health unit and all health units to review procedures on how to deal with this future public health crisis.

LEGAL FEES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): On May 29 the NDP arbitrarily imposed a series of sizeable increases to registry fees affecting real estate transactions. These new charges are part of an overall fee increase announced, but buried, in the NDP budget to the tune of over \$40 million.

For example, the fee for settling an estate of over \$50,000 has tripled from 0.5% to 1.5%. When doing a search on a specific property it used to cost \$4 for the name of each previous owner. This fee has also tripled, to \$11. When it is considered that a property search can go as far back in time as 40 years or more and can involve 16 to 30 previous owners, the final sum for a sheriff's certificate could be as high as \$300. Costs of registering real estate documents may likewise rise over 400%.

It was six years ago that the Liberals began these fee increases as a hidden source of extra tax revenue. The

NDP are bringing in unprecedented fee increases to gouge consumers at this critical time of recession in Ontario, all the time without any prior public consultation or notice.

The NDP Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations should be ashamed of herself, just sitting idly by as these fee increases are imposed, increases she knows will only hurt those attempting to buy affordable housing.

I call on the NDP government to stop these hidden tax grabs which punish consumers and hurt investment and commerce potential in our province. It is time for NDP rhetoric on economic recovery to stop and time for the practical measures that will help consumers be part of the strategy of economic recovery in Ontario.

LUSOFEST '92

Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): It is with great enthusiasm that I rise in the House today to join with all members in celebrating Portugal Day and in particular the Lusofest '92 cultural festival in Hamilton. This past Saturday I attended the kickoff ceremonies for Lusofest '92 at city hall in my riding of Hamilton Centre and am proud to wear this colourful T-shirt, the symbol for this week-long celebration in Hamilton.

The significance behind this important date is the anniversary of the death of Luiz de Camões, a great Portuguese epic poet who wrote about Portuguese discoveries in the late 15th to early 16th centuries.

Festivals such as Lusofest '92, organized by the Luso-Canadian Cultural Council of Canada, give us an opportunity to express our commitment to the diverse communities which make Ontario and Canada what it is today. June 10 marks a time to appreciate and acknowledge the Portuguese culture and its contribution to our nation.

I would like to introduce to all members the following special guests who are present in the House today: His Excellency Dr Pedro Alves Machado, the ambassador from Portugal to Canada; Mr Marcilino Moniz, vice-consul general, and Ms Ida de Jesus, who along with Ms Anabella Almeida co-chairs Hamilton Lusofest '92.

The Luso-Canadian Council of Hamilton has my wholehearted support and I'm sure the members of this House will join me in commending its efforts and wishing it every success.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Last Thursday the government added yet another link to a long chain of broken promises when it was revealed that the Rouge River Valley, an area in Metropolitan Toronto which the minister knows is of great environmental significance, was under consideration as a landfill site for Metro's garbage. I would ask the minister why she and her government have retreated so completely from the promises it clearly made to prohibit the dumping of Metro's garbage in the Rouge Valley.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I think it would really assist in the debate of what is a very difficult issue if the premises upon which the

Leader of the Opposition based her question bore some resemblance to the facts of the situation. As I said last week in response to a similar question, or maybe it was earlier this week, at the time of the establishment of the Interim Waste Authority and the giving to it of a mandate to seek landfill sites within the greater Toronto area, the issue of the Rouge was of course of great concern to everyone, so in the initial criteria the Interim Waste Authority published last August, one of the criteria it was to use in screening out areas where a landfill site could not be established was the following: Screen out the portion of the Rouge River Valley where the provincial cabinet has declared a provincial intent to establish a park.

As a result of the public consultation around those criteria, the public raised the issue of buffer zones with respect to that, so added to the screening criteria was to include buffers in the Rouge River Valley. None of the sites that have been identified by the Interim Waste Authority deviate from those criteria.

1350

Mrs McLeod: This is an issue I have cause to know very well indeed, and I would understand that the citizens of this area who gave support in part to this government because of the promises it made, without any qualifications at all, feel that all this government is doing in trying to give responsibility to the Interim Waste Authority is simply copping out and avoiding recognizing a full retreat from promises it made.

In case the minister has forgotten the promises made by her Premier, let me quote directly. On December 11, 1990, in response to a question asked by the leader of the third party, the Premier stated:

"I do not know how I can be any clearer.... I was asked specifically...whether I abided by the statements that I had made in the past with respect to there not being a dump in the Rouge Valley. That is the statement that I am making today: No dump in the Rouge."

Now I read in the Toronto Sun of June 7 that the Premier has scaled down that promise to say, "We're determined to see there will be no dump in the park," a quite different and more qualified promise than was made throughout 1990.

I ask the minister how she can possibly try to pretend that this is now some kind of independent decision and that she and her government have absolutely no responsibility for it. Does she not realize that she cannot wash her hands, that the decision about this waste management, if it's a decision to put this dump in the Rouge, will be this government's decision and a full retreat from the promises made in the past?

Hon Mrs Grier: Nothing could be further from the truth. The Interim Waste Authority has been established to apply environmental criteria to the establishment of landfill sites. It has screened out a variety of areas. They have now identified areas where landfills could in fact be located according to those screening criteria. Those sites are now going to be the subject of further extensive consultation and testing until we get down to one particular site.

When the member talks about a park in the Rouge, the member is quite wrong. The lands that were previously identified as having potential for a park, and which an advisory committee was established to examine and make recommendations on—by the previous government, not by this government—are all south of Steeles Avenue. That is the area that was initially screened out in response to the consultation and the request for buffer areas. The buffer areas are 400 metres on either side of any tributary of the Rouge. If that isn't the Rouge or the Rouge Valley, I don't know what is.

Mrs McLeod: The memories ring in my head of this minister at an earlier day, as an opposition critic, failing to make that kind of fine distinction in expressing her concerns about the environmental implications of a waste site anywhere in the vicinity of the Rouge Valley.

I think this minister is in some difficulty after Bill 143 in talking about independent processes. I remind her that the environmental assessment process, as set out under the Environmental Assessment Act of this province, provides that all alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking must be considered. I suggest that in this particular situation of dealing with the waste management problems facing the greater Toronto area, this minister has already ruled out at least one of the alternatives which would be considered in a truly independent process, that of course being the alternative presented to the city of Toronto by Kirkland Lake.

I simply ask the minister how her government can claim to be setting up an independent environmental assessment process that's consistent with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act when the independent assessment of all the alternatives to this undertaking has never been carried out.

Hon Mrs Grier: Now we're down, I guess, to what is the bottom line for the Leader of the Opposition, which is that the GTA waste should be sent to northern Ontario. That is not acceptable to this government; that was ruled out by legislation adopted by this Legislature, and that is not a quick, easy, fair or environmental solution to the problems of the greater Toronto area.

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I now know why they replaced that rickety old roof up there. All of us would be through the top of it if we had known about these rule changes before the construction started.

I looked at the material sent out by the House leader of the government party. They say they want to introduce 121 bills in this House. I've been spending a whole lot of time looking in various places in this document, this book that tells us about the procedure of the Legislative Assembly, and others. Can the government House leader tell us where he has been prevented from introducing those bills and will he table today the list of all 121 pieces of legislation he says he cannot introduce in this House?

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I understand very clearly that we can introduce legislation into the House, but the difficulty has been that the opposition doesn't want to deal with legislation in the House. I go

back to the example that I think is absolutely the best example of them all, and that is the fact that for the first time I can ever recall since I've been in the Legislature, it took over a year to get budget bills from the 1991 budget through this Legislature.

The opposition parties simply don't want to have this place work smoothly. The rules that we're proposing are not unusual at all. They're completely in line with rules that are in place in legislatures across the country, and at the national level they've been brought in by parties of all political stripes.

Mr Elston: Not here.

Hon Mr Cooke: No, not here. You're right. But it's about time the Ontario Legislature became as efficient and effective and used taxpayers' money as wisely as some other institutions in this country do.

Mr Elston: The honourable member for Windsor-Riverside, the government House leader, has been reading his briefing note on the Ontario Labour Relations Act. That is the exact same explanation they give for that change in the rules unilaterally at this time as well. Without consensus, the members cannot perform their tasks. Without consensus, this House does not operate.

To the government House leader: Can he tell us why he refused to introduce any of the legislation, in fact introduced fully 14 of 17 government bills since, I think it was, May 26 in this House? If we were to be given the opportunity internally to debate these bills in a reasonable fashion, how was it that you expected us to do our work if you won't bring any of that legislation to the House in a first reading form so that we can debate it? Was it your plan to leave us without anything to say so that we would be at risk of not being able to do our job for the public?

Hon Mr Cooke: I'm not quite sure I understand the point of the House leader's question. What I do understand is that what happened is that we came into the Legislature last fall and for the first six months the Legislature was in session, we didn't deal with any legislation at all. The opposition parties wouldn't allow us to pass anything. We came back this spring and we're still having to deal with legislation that was introduced last year because the opposition parties wouldn't deal with the legislation.

This government respects the role and the need for the opposition parties to present their points of view and to put forward opposing points of view, but I think the people of this province expect the government to make decisions, and the ability of this Legislature to vote on issues before it. The opposition parties simply don't want us to even be able to vote on issues before the Legislature.

Mr Elston: The business of this House is ordered by the government. It is the business of this government to move the bills into first reading so that not only the members of this Legislative Assembly but the members of the public at large can see the legislative agenda.

It is no coincidence that the development of the labour legislation took until Thursday of last week to come forward in first reading fashion and that it was followed quickly by the most repressive steps taken in this Legislature by any government at any time. I want this member to

tell the public the truth, and I want him to tell us the truth today. Wouldn't he agree, I should say, that the truth is that he brought the labour legislation here on Thursday, followed by unilateral rule changes, following the Sunday shopping bill, following his desire to stampede legislation through this Parliament without the people's opposition being able to speak clearly and carefully about that agenda?

Hon Mr Cooke: Nothing could be further from the truth. The Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments were introduced last week. It's always been the intention of this government and of the minister to have a full debate at second reading, and I read in the paper—

Interjections.

Mr Elston: That's not true. He wouldn't even listen to the people who came to his forums.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Bruce.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister.

1400

Hon Mr Cooke: It has always been the intention of this government to have a full debate of the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments at second reading and to have public hearings. But I read in the paper and hear on radio from the Labour critic from the Liberal Party and the critics from the Conservative Party that they don't even want to allow us to have second reading on the bill.

They don't want to have public hearings and hear from the people of the province about the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments. We want to go out. We want the legislation passed here and then we want to go discuss it again, through a legislative committee, with the people of the province. That's the appropriate process to go through.

I hear about some of the tactics the opposition parties say are being used. I just invite the members of the public and all the members of the opposition to look at the speech that was made in the House the other day by the member for Renfrew North. Is that the kind of party Lyn McLeod wants to lead in Ontario and the kind of speech we are to hear from one of her members of the Legislature? That's why we need changes to the rules in this place.

The Speaker: New question. The leader of the third party.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Just a moment. I ask the House to come to order.

VISITORS

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Before proceeding, I invite all members to welcome to our chamber this afternoon a very special group of people, legislative interns from the province of British Columbia who are seated in the Speaker's gallery. Welcome to our assembly.

Start the clock, please.

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Yesterday I rose and spoke to you about the language being used by the Minister of Labour in referring

to a member and what she intended or did not intend, which in my opinion amounts to imputing motives. The member for Windsor-Riverside has done so again. More than that, Mr Speaker, he has used language which is designed to create discontent in this chamber and in fact cause grave disorder. Mr Speaker, you know what that is designed to do and you have not asked him to consider his words carefully.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce, indeed I'm aware that often there is language which, while it cannot be described as unparliamentary in nature, is accusatory. Accusatory language which is inflammatory does lead to disorder in the House. I have asked all members in the chamber to please try to use temperate language so that we can have an orderly debate in the House. I understand full well what the member for Bruce has brought before me. I can only urge members to try to use language which is temperate in nature.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: You will be aware, Mr Speaker—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Mississauga North.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr Offer: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a point of privilege. It has to do with the last response given by the government House leader. The government House leader responded to a question by a member of our party, our House leader, that one of the reasons these rule changes were put forward was because—and I think Hansard will be clear—of some statement that I made as the Labour critic for our party dealing with second reading.

Mr Speaker, I believe this to be a matter of privilege of a personal nature to myself. The point the House leader is alluding to is a statement I made on Friday that was broadcast on Monday which indicated that as a result of a committee set up by the Premier dealing with labour and management we felt it would be best that this bill be sent to that committee prior to the government bringing forward the bill for second reading. At no time did we talk about the process dealing with how we would debate the bill on second reading.

The point of privilege I bring forward is this: The government House leader just two minutes ago made that statement, which is erroneous, about a statement I made and has stated that the reason they introduced the rule changes was as a result of that statement. I would invite that member of the Legislature to stand and correct because of the fact that statement dealing with where the bill should be taken was made by me on Friday, it was broadcast on Monday and the House leader filed those rules the Thursday before. In other words, he is alleging that the reason he introduced those rule changes was as a result of a statement made by me which, first, wasn't, and, second, had not yet even been made by me.

My privileges as a member have been prejudiced. The minister has in fact misstated everything that has been stated. I invite him to stand in his place and tell every member in this House that you are in fact incorrect.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. The member will know that the Speaker is not in a position to assess the veracity of statements which are made in the chamber. There is clearly a difference of opinion between the views expressed by the government House leader and the member for Mississauga North.

I would also ask members to please seriously consider raising points of order and privilege outside of our question period time, if at all possible.

The member for Parry Sound.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Would you as the Speaker please consider restoring approximately five or six minutes to the clock, because you're taking away from every member in this Legislature—

Interjections.

Mr Eves: Shut your yaps over there and listen; you might learn something. What a classless bunch of buffoons. Would you please restore the six minutes?

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for Parry Sound.

Interjections.

The Speaker: To the member for Parry Sound: First, his choice of vocabulary—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. This House stands recessed for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1408.

1418

Mr Eves: I withdraw the comment I made earlier.

The Speaker: To the member for Parry Sound: I sincerely appreciate his withdrawal of the comment. Also to the member for Parry Sound with respect to his point of order: I understand fully that in the last two days the third party has been placed at a disadvantage which is not of its creation.

I am reluctant to add time to the clock for the reason that I had, just prior to the member rising, asked members to try not to raise points of order or privilege during our question period. I guess I'm a bit reluctant because, by adding time to the clock, perhaps what I am inadvertently doing is encouraging members to raise points of order and privilege while the clock is running.

However, since I am sympathetic to the point that the member raises, what I will do is to monitor the time very closely and as we approach the end of the hour, if there is an opportunity to be flexible with respect to questions placed, then I indeed will do so.

Start the clock. The leader of the third party.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My question is to the minister responsible for the GTA. The minister knows that absolutely no one is happy with the Interim Waste Authority list of 57 potential landfill sites, particularly those near the Rouge where the Premier stood two years ago and swore there would be no dump.

Minister, yesterday you assured us that these sites will undergo a full environmental assessment. If this is true,

then the Kirkland Lake proposal would be considered as an alternative.

So I would ask you this, Minister: Were you telling the truth yesterday when you said it would be a full environmental assessment? Will the Kirkland Lake option be considered? Or in fact will the 57 sites undergo a Ruth Grier selective environmental assessment?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): The 57 sites will undergo an environmental assessment just like many others. In fact, three of the 57—not 57, let me correct that very precisely—the three sites that are identified as a result of the Interim Waste Authority's process will undergo an environmental assessment.

Let me remind the member, the leader of the third party, that there are environmental assessments of landfill sites going on at the present time that have gone on in the past, and in each of those applications an area has been identified within which a landfill site will be selected and then submitted to an environmental assessment. Only Metropolitan Toronto had the right to seek a site anywhere across the province. Under Bill 143, Metropolitan Toronto and any other municipality that is part of the greater Toronto area will be finding sites through the auspices of the Interim Waste Authority within the GTA.

Mr Harris: So what you have described to me is the abbreviated, selective Ruth Grier, not a full environmental assessment as you said yesterday.

I have received a letter from the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. Once again, the brothers and the sisters of the unions have come to me to speak on their behalf because they have no voice in this Legislature.

Mr Speaker, through you to the minister, the union has asked me to support the proposal of Rail Cycle North, which the minister will know is the Kirkland Lake site. The union estimates that nearly 300 jobs and \$13.3 million would be generated for the local economy.

Minister, if your government is so committed to creating jobs in this province, why have you singlehandedly wiped out the option of creating 300 jobs in northern Ontario? Why have you given the back of your hand to the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, the brothers and the sisters that now must turn to me for help, and why have you turned your back on an option that may very well be—and we'll never know under your selective environmental assessment—the best site for the sake of the environment? Why have you done all these things?

Hon Mrs Grier: The leader of the third party has got to recognize the inconsistency in the questions he's posing. On the one hand, he is saying a full environmental assessment requires examination of all possible sites anywhere within the province of Ontario. On the other hand, he says, "Just look at Kirkland Lake."

What he doesn't recognize is that if a municipality or an agency is to select a site anywhere in the province of Ontario, then all sites in the province are back on the list for evaluation, and that means not just Kirkland Lake, it means Marmora, it means Plympton, it means sites in

Nottawasaga, it means sites in Orillia, it means any potential landfill site throughout the province.

That is not an acceptable way to deal with the waste of the greater Toronto area. The acceptable way is what this government has done, which is to get serious about waste reduction and then find a landfill site as close as possible to the source of the generation of the waste. That's what the Interim Waste Authority is doing. That's the environmental approach to waste management.

Mr Harris: But it is acceptable, Minister, to ship a million tonnes of waste south of the border to the United States to have it incinerated and blown back on Ontario? That's acceptable under the Ruth Grier environment program for Ontario?

We have community after community telling us that they don't want a landfill site. The minister named a whole host of them. On the other hand, we have a community in northern Ontario crying out to be considered. We also have Metropolitan Toronto asking that it be allowed to be considered. Seventy per cent of Kirkland Lake voted in favour of having an environmental assessment. We know it will create jobs that cannot possibly otherwise be created without that proposal going forward.

I ask you again, why do you refuse to consider a solution to the garbage crisis that has the full support of the community, that will create jobs in northern Ontario, that Metro wishes to have as one of the sites to be considered and that may in fact be the best environmental option? Why do you refuse to even consider that?

Hon Mrs Grier: Let me just draw attention to yet another inconsistency in the questions posed by the member. The site that Metro had identified and wanted to use was not in Kirkland Lake. It's in Boston township. That's 15 kilometres from Kirkland Lake, in somebody else's backyard. It was not in Kirkland Lake. That has never been part of the consideration.

But let me again say to the member that under the Environmental Assessment Act you don't take a site that happens to be available, or where a commercial arrangement happens to have been made, and then do an environmental assessment of that site. The basic of the Environmental Assessment Act is to compare alternatives. If you're looking at a comparison with Kirkland Lake, you have to search everywhere else, not just in northern Ontario but right across the province. That is not acceptable to those other communities, to this government or to anyone who wants there to be an environmental solution to waste.

Mr Harris: I thought the purpose of an environmental assessment was to pick the best site for the environment. In not considering Kirkland Lake, you're eliminating that as a possibility in favour of the Rouge.

The Speaker: Is this the leader's second question?

INVESTMENT FUNDS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): Mr Speaker, I thank you because my second question is not to the same minister. In fact, in the absence of the Treasurer, my second question is to the Chairman of Management Board.

Mr Minister, I have in front of me a copy of a leaked cabinet document dated September 23, 1991. It outlines the NDP government's plan for the Ontario investment fund. It says that money for this fund will come from a list of public sector pension plans. Minister, two of those funds, OMERS and HOOPP, have already said they will not let the NDP government get its hands on their pension funds.

Minister, as Chairman of Management Board and a member of the policy and priorities board of cabinet, how does your government plan to proceed with this voluntary fund if there are no volunteers?

Hon Tony Silipo (Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet): I would be happy to try to answer the question, except that I understand that my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, who is involved directly in this issue, can give a more direct response to the question asked.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): I can inform the member that at this stage the Ontario investment fund project is undertaking consultations with private enterprise, the banking community, the business community, the trade union movement and those people who are most likely to wish to have access to the kinds of funds that are needed for long-term investment in value added products. I can tell you that several meetings have been held, they've been very successful, and the Treasurer has assured that anyone who will participate in this will do so on a voluntary level.

1430

Mr Harris: I think a more accurate answer to my question can be found in the NDP's own leaked cabinet document. Page 5 states, under "Labour Relations": "Access to public sector pension funds may require policy and financial tradeoffs in terms of the government's labour relations and compensation strategies."

Minister, this cabinet document of 1991 clearly states that your labour reforms are part of a tradeoff for public sector union support of your investment fund. How do you explain that?

Hon Mr Philip: From initial meetings with both the labour movement and with the trust companies and other members of the financial community, we don't need any tradeoffs. People are approving of this program. They think it's a good idea, and indeed many of them say they can't understand why the Conservatives, when they were in power, didn't do anything to create this kind of investment fund.

Mr Harris: A reason, I suggest, that you appear to believe that the public sector pension funds will come forward is that you know you've bought them off. You increased pension funds, as the document said you were going to do—for example, OMERS last year; you've brought in the Labour Relations Act, as it says you probably would have to do to get their cooperation and get their funds, and then—and I'm glad it's this minister, because on page 4 of the leaked document it says, on access to funds, that "a pension-based financial institution may require guarantees or subsidy by the government."

It further says that "treasury board should review expenditures on technology and industrial development"—try to find the money there within existing funding—"to guarantee a rate of return to those public sector pension funds."

Can the minister confirm to me that in addition to the tradeoff of the labour legislation changes, in addition to enriching the pension funds to get their cooperation, you also plan to use taxpayer dollars to guarantee a rate of return to force these pension funds to give the money to you to develop them as you see fit?

Hon Mr Philip: Our discussions with the business community and indeed with the trade union movement and others who are on our advisory committee suggest that there is a need for this fund, that it will be a good investment on a long-term basis, and I can tell you something else: that it says we have said—

Mr Harris: This says you are going to give them a guaranteed return. That's the question.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the leader of the third party.

Hon Mr Philip: The guarantee will be that the trade union movement and others recognize that the real guarantee is investing in this province, and that's what we're giving them an opportunity for. Unlike the Conservative governments, we will not use public pension funds to subsidize the public treasury. That's what we won't do to their pension funds.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): For the past few weeks the standing committee on finance and economic affairs has been examining Bill 150. Last week I addressed a question to the Premier on it and I think he was confused. I think he thought I was asking him about this Ontario investment fund rather than the aspects of Bill 150.

I know you want to know to whom this question is being addressed, Mr Speaker. I'm getting to that. I was hoping to be able to go back to the Premier and ask him about it. He, unfortunately, is not here. I thought maybe I would go to the Treasurer and ask him about it. He, unfortunately, is not here. I thought I would go to the Minister of Revenue and ask her about it, but she, unfortunately, is not here. So I thought I would then have no recourse but to go to the Minister of Labour.

This bill has two aspects. One of them is the creation of a venture capital fund and the other is the provision for tax breaks for employees who get involved in worker buyouts. The very nature of the bill—and its title is Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Act, 1992—"labour sponsored"—would suggest that this is an initiative sponsored by labour for labour, but it appears that nothing could be further from the truth. In fact labour is not at all supportive.

For example, here's what the Ontario Federation of Labour told us: "Why should union members and other employees be the central focus of raising the necessary moneys, rather than those individuals and institutions with capital who are in the business of providing it for a fee?"

They went on to say, "We remain unconvinced that there is any advantage for our members"—we're talking about members of the Ontario Federation of Labour—"to use their hard-earned moneys for purposes of bailing out small companies."

The question is: If the Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Act is indeed a bill by labour for labour, don't you think you should be spending some time getting labour on side supporting it?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think the member should recognize that it's a government bill, not a labour bill, and that the initiatives, in terms of workers' involvement and workers' investment, have been well established at both Kapuskasing and Algoma Steel, and I think those are success stories.

Mr Kwinter: Minister, I lived through some of the history of this. This was a labour initiative. Back in 1988 they came to us and said they wanted this. This was a labour initiative.

If it isn't enough that the 800,000 members of the Ontario Federation of Labour are not going to support it, perhaps the minister will be interested in the Canadian Federation of Labour. Tomorrow Bob White will be crowned head of the Canadian Federation of Labour, but Bob White is clearly—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Kwinter: You may call it elected; I say it's a coronation.

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Government House Leader): You're talking about the wrong labour organization.

Mr Kwinter: I'm not talking about the wrong labour organization. I'm talking about the fact that he is clearly against both aspects of the legislation. That's both of them, both the venture capital fund and the worker buyout provisions. Mr White's lieutenants, James O'Neil and Sam Gindin, met with our committee, and here's what they had to say.

Mr Gindin told us: "We think that's the wrong direction to go," and "To lure workers with major tax breaks which may not be in their long-term interest is also a dangerous thing to do." Mr O'Neil, the secretary-treasurer, summed it up by stating, "If the government is serious in its attempt to increase workers' participation in the economy, it hardly makes sense to begin by introducing a proposal the labour movement itself, in convention, has rejected."

The Speaker: Would the member place his supplementary.

Mr Kwinter: I'm going to get to the question. Are the minister and his government prepared to thumb their noses at labour, including its largest voice, and ram a piece of legislation through the House that is not supported by the people who are supposed to be the proponents and by the people who are supposed to be the beneficiaries? Are you prepared to ram this through notwithstanding that they're not supporting it?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'm sure the member recognizes that you don't ram it through. It's a voluntary program and the workers have to want to be involved in it before they are.

I think also the member should clearly understand that there are differences in the labour movement, as there are differences, I think, in his party or in our caucus. There are those who support it and those who don't, and I'm not sure how you make the argument that we have to listen to what one or two say or not listen to them. We will take a look at the benefits of the legislation in terms of workers' involvement, and let me tell you, there is a real need for it in Ontario.

1440

LOTTERY TICKETS

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, responsible for the Ontario Lottery Corp. A recent article in the Windsor Star stated that the Ontario Lottery Corp is testing coin-operated ticket vending machines in Windsor, Sarnia, Chatham and London.

Minister, one month ago you stood in this House and announced you had no intention of going ahead with introducing video lottery terminals. You also claimed you had consulted with many interested parties on the future of gambling and gaming in this province.

I'm certain that if you had consulted with the coin operators' lottery association it would have expressed grave concerns over the unfair competition your new machines place on its traditional amusement games. Minister, is the introduction of these new lottery ticket vending machines the thin edge of the wedge for the introduction of slot machines in Ontario?

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): First of all, I'd like to address one of the issues the honourable member mentioned. These are not video lottery terminals, nor are they associated with or like video lottery terminals.

The second point is that this is something that has been suggested by the Ontario Lottery Corp. It is within their purview to deal with matters that are of an operational nature, and this is one of those cases.

I would say to the honourable member that there has been some discussion at the lottery corporation pertaining to this particular issue. There has been some suggestion that they would try some trial basis or temporary measures to see how the machines would work and how the people in the province would respond to those particular machines. At this point I'm not aware that they are actually in the locations that have been mentioned.

Mr Arnott: The minister is overlooking the fact that video lottery terminals, which he has stated he will not introduce, and coin-operated ticket vending machines are essentially the same thing. In effect, there is no difference whatsoever.

It appears the Ontario Lottery Corp is on the offensive. In the past three months we have all been mailed flyers that entitle us to free lottery tickets: "Millions to be won in

Ontario"; "See inside for valuable lottery coupons"; "Buy two Lottario tickets and get one Lottario ticket free."

Even more alarming, Minister, is the revelation that your machines will be placed in supermarkets, doughnut shops and bowling alleys, where they will be easily accessible by children. It's very ironic that at a time when your government expresses concern about children accessing cigarettes from vending machines you have no concern about them accessing lottery tickets.

Earlier this year, Minister, you assured us that video lottery terminals would be placed in licensed establishments where they would not be accessible to minors. Why, then, are you now putting your new machines in areas where no restrictions will be placed on access?

Hon Mr North: I will try to reiterate to the member across the floor that there is a tremendous difference between video lottery terminals and the machines he's describing. The lottery corporation investigates options it has in terms of raising revenue at different points throughout the province and at different points throughout the evolution of lotteries in this province. I would say to the honourable member that a number of different ideas have been looked at and a number of different options have been considered. This is one of the options that's being considered.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): My question is to the Minister of Energy. I think a number of us, particularly in the Niagara Peninsula—Mr Bradley included, undoubtedly—would have received a press release from Brock University outlining its new thermal heating and cooling system. The university remarks very proudly that this new system will save it \$300,000 a year in electricity costs. So my question to the minister is, what other kinds of energy efficiency programs are available from the Ministry of Energy to help industries and institutions with their energy bills?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): It would be inappropriate for me to try to list all the specific programs here this afternoon. Suffice it to say that Ontario Hydro has a number of programs that focus on electrical energy. The Ministry of Energy also has a number of programs that focus on all of the range of energy fuels used in industry. I think the best approach the member can take, because all the programs are targeted at efficiency and therefore, in the industry's perspective, at saving money as well as energy consumption, is that industries that have specific concerns or questions should probably contact my office or the ministry directly so we can direct them to the appropriate program section.

Ms Haeck: I appreciate that response, because I know there are people in my riding who are very interested in saving money on their electricity costs. I hope you think about it too.

A number of my constituents work at Ontario Hydro at Queenston, at Sir Adam Beck, and I know they will be interested in learning how these conservation programs instituted by the ministry will affect plans to expand that facility.

Hon Mr Charlton: The energy programs being pursued by Hydro and the ministry have a number of benefits. I guess the most important one from the individual's or the company's perspective is the money they will save. But those programs will have no impact on the redevelopment of the Beck hydro-electric site. In spite of the need to pursue, as quickly as we can, energy efficiency initiatives in this province, we will have a continuing need to pursue other forms of energy, most specifically the ones represented by Beck, which are environmentally sound and renewable in nature. That project will proceed fairly quickly.

ONTARIO ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): Last week the Minister of the Environment stood in the House and commended the former government for its efforts in establishing the Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy. Members of this House will know that the round table was set up in 1988 under the leadership of the member for St Catharines to bring together government, business, labour, agriculture, environment and community groups under the chairmanship of our now House leader to create a provincial strategy for sustainable economic development.

Minister, since taking office you have almost always been the sole representative of your government at round table meetings. Your cabinet colleagues for the most part have refused to take part in round table discussions and have offered little or no substantive contribution to the round table. In the absence of any significant support from your cabinet colleagues, do you think you can keep the round table alive?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I have to differ with the question from the member. Certainly there has not been full attendance at all meetings by all the members of cabinet on the round table, as there has not been by all the representatives of the private sector or all the environmentalists. In fact, we've a meeting tomorrow and there'll be a number of people in Brazil who won't be at the round table.

The fact that not everybody goes to every meeting of the round table has not in any way negated the efforts, the work and the very real contribution that the members of the round table have made under that government and this government to the development of policies, concepts and strategies for sustainable development in the province of Ontario.

I think the round table was a very good initiative. I've said that from the beginning of its incarnation. I think the contribution of the current report that is almost completed and will be presented to the Premier, a strategy for sustainable development, will do a great deal to advance the dialogue and the debate around how we can match and mesh the environment and economic decisions that have to be taken as we restructure the economy of this province.

Mr McClelland: Madam Minister, it seems that in many respects—and we all know this—you have abandoned many of your principles and stated causes of the environment prior to your swearing in as Minister of the

Environment. You're certainly at odds with your cabinet colleagues, many of them, with respect to the Ontario water and sewer main corporation, you were abandoned yesterday by the Ontario Global Warming Coalition and it seems very evident that you are about to abandon the Ontario round table.

Minister, we understand that the round table that you've just praised and talked about is effectively starting to wind down as of this Friday. Frankly, given the statements you have made in this place, your stated support and the fact that you said, even last week, that having developed and arrived at a strategy there remained considerably much more to do, I find it somewhere between difficult and impossible to believe what's happening with the round table.

I'd like you to respond directly, Minister, to the rumours that the round table is being wound down, that you are shutting it down. If that's happening, why are you allowing that to happen, Madam Minister?

Hon Mrs Grier: Nothing could be further from the truth. Under the previous government the round table was given a secretariat with a mandate of three years to prepare a strategy on sustainable development and present it to the Premier of the day. Premier Rae will be receiving that strategy from the round table, I hope, some time within the next month or so, later than we would've liked, because the target had been that the strategy would have been available by the end of March.

The mandate of the secretariat was extended until June. We have run over and so there has been a time collapse between the production of the strategy and the end of the mandate of the secretariat. That work is being done and is being bridged from within the Ministry of the Environment, but we've made it very clear that there will be a round table in the future. I have asked and the members of the current round table have agreed to have their terms of office extended until September so that we can complete the work within the current mandate.

The round table, as a multisectoral, consensus-building operation, has proved invaluable and has been a model that has been copied in other jurisdictions in parts of the United States and in lots of local communities across this province. It is something that is here to stay.

1450

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): I'd like to ask a question on the multisectoral, consensus-building table. That's a good one.

To the minister, is it true you've commissioned a study to study the effectiveness and the need to continue the round table discussions, a study held by a private citizen that was financed by this government? The question categorically is, have you in fact commissioned a study to determine whether or not you should even bother with the round tables any more? I ask you directly, did you in fact commission a study and what did that study say?

Hon Mrs Grier: I did not commission a study as to whether or not there ought to be round tables. I asked Dale Martin to examine the work of the round table and to recommend to me the form in which the round table

should continue, what improvements should be made in its operation and how best the round table could be structured to continue as a multistakeholder, consensus-building operation to carry through on the strategy for sustainable development that it was recommending to the government.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): Bring out the snorkel equipment.

Mr Stockwell: We now discover that yes, they've commissioned a study by Mr Dale Martin, the professional snorkeller from the city of Toronto.

My question to the minister of the Environment and the GTA is, how much did you pay Dale Martin to do this study, when did he do this study, was he double-dipping, in fact collecting from the Ontario Municipal Board while doing this study, what was the study, what did it say and finally, why was this study not tendered publicly? Why was it given directly to Mr Martin and obviously the associated payments given to Mr Martin?

Hon Mrs Grier: It was not a very extensive study. It was not a very wide-ranging study. I don't honestly know at this point what it cost. I will get that information and make it available to the member. It was advice to me as to how we might best continue the valuable work the round table has done and what form that work should take in the future.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mrs Grier: I think the member and the other members are doing a very real disservice to the efforts that have been put into the round table by the previous government and by this government.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Has the minister concluded her response?

Hon Mrs Grier: I've concluded.

WATER CONSERVATION

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): My question is to the Minister of Housing. Last fall I introduced a private member's bill that would amend the Ontario Water Resources Act and require that all new water fixtures such as toilets, faucets and shower heads meet certain efficiency standards. Recently your ministry changed the regulations under the Ontario Water Resources Act and will phase in mandatory use of efficient units. Can the minister please tell me what these new requirements will be?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): I'd be glad to do that. In the Ontario Gazette of March you will find new regulations that will become effective on January 1, 1993, which will require the installation of energy-efficient shower heads, water-efficient shower heads and water-efficient faucets in all new buildings and major renovations as of that time. The requirement for the efficiency of toilets will be that no more than a maximum of 13.5 litres be used per flush.

I might add that this has been a very slow process, from the point of view of this minister, because my concerns are very much weighted with energy efficiency and

with water efficiency. I am particularly concerned to see if we can't move ahead a bit faster with improvements to the standards which have already been announced.

Mr Hansen: I'm very happy to hear about these changes, Madam Minister, as they fulfil the intentions of my bill. My supplementary question deals with how the manufacturers of fixtures and toilets are going to cope with these changes. Did your ministry consult with and seek recommendations from the manufacturer of toilets and fixtures before making these changes?

Interjections.

Hon Ms Gigantes: I know the opposition finds this very funny, but it is in fact a very important matter. It has to do with the way we're going to conserve water use in this province over the next while. This has enormous implications for our ability to constrain costs in terms of the cost of new sewers and new waterworks. If we are able to reduce the amount of water we're using in our buildings by the amounts that are technically possible now, we're going to make enormous gains both economically and in terms of protection of our precious resources. We are continuously consulting, and if I may say so, pushing manufacturers in this province to be able to meet standards which are now technologically available.

CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Mr Charles Beer (York North): My question is to the Minister of Education. Minister, you will be aware that one of the most important changes in terms of the funding for school boards was the innovation brought in by our government to look, instead of in terms of capital at one year, to extending that over a three-year period to give school boards that sense of stability so they would know what they were going to have to do and what moneys they would have in terms of building.

There is a rumour that is going on throughout many school boards right now, and that I've had phone calls about, that as there has not been any announcement as yet regarding school capital, the ministry has decided there will not be an announcement this year. I would like to ask you to say to the House very clearly that before we rise on the 25th of this month, you will make a very specific and definite commitment of school capital financing.

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I thank the member for the question, because that issue is one we are looking at very vigorously now within the ministry. I understand and have agreed very much with the approach taken by the previous government to announce the capital projects three years ahead for exactly the reasons the member has indicated. The member will recall, I'm sure, that there was an indication in the budget that we were looking at different ways of spending capital dollars and that within that we would be talking to people in the communities and in the affected stakeholder groups about that. Clearly the education capital is one of those areas we're interested in talking to people about.

However, I would still like—and we are working this through—to be able to look at announcing the projects we'll be funding before the House rises. My hope is that

we can still do that. If we are not able to do that, I will certainly give an indication to the House and to school boards as to how early we ought to be able to do that, but my hope at this point is that we can still do it before the end of June.

1500

Mr Beer: I have concerns about the nature and the form of the minister's answer, because what I clearly hear is that if there is to be any kind of announcement, it's going to be based on a very different set of guidelines and proposals. I think what school boards need least at this point in time is yet another indication of instability in the way in which they are funded.

I would ask the minister again, are you saying to the House and to school boards that if you come before the House to make an announcement, you are going to be announcing capital again in the range of some \$300 million, which has been the amount over the last number of years? Will that be applicable to all school boards, that they are all going to be able to participate in going after those funds, or are you saying you're changing the system completely so that only certain boards—can you be clear? This is causing a great deal of instability in the system and I think the boards need to know clearly what the intention of the government is.

Hon Mr Silipo: Let me tell the member that we are talking to school boards about some of the things we are considering, so they do in fact know what we are contemplating. Let me also say very clearly that nothing we are contemplating changes in any way the range of the funding that will be provided. That will clearly still be in the \$300 million to \$330 million area that we have been providing.

What we are looking at is whether we ought to be changing the way in which those funds are provided, the issue of debenturing being one of the issues that's being considered. Also what we are obviously looking at is how we mesh that with some of the other announcements that were in the budget with respect to some additional capital dollars that I've again been indicating to school boards, some of which will be available to us, as well as what we can be doing with respect to the multi-use facilities and some of the funds that my predecessor announced would be available for that.

We're trying to bring all of those pieces together. As I say, I hope to be able to have some announcements here in the House and for school boards before the end of June.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): We have time for a question with no supplementary.

COMMODITY LOAN PROGRAM

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I will have to stretch my initial question then, if I have no supplementary, and I appreciate your warning me.

To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: Mr Minister, on March 25 of this year you announced the commodity loan guarantee program, and I and most farmers thought that because of the early announcement in March, it would be available to farmers for the costs of their planting time. Well, planting time has come and gone and commensurate

costs with those have also come and gone. Farmers are waiting.

Mr Minister, when will you have the commodity loan program up and going? There are no application forms. When will farmers be able to apply, and what interest rate will they be paying on money that you've borrowed from the Bank of Montreal?

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I share some of the member's concern about not having this loan program available for farmers before planting. That was my plan originally. We ran into some problems in negotiating with the financial institutions.

The Bank of Montreal was the institution selected to work out an arrangement between the corporation and the bank. Papers have been signed and the application forms, which I had hoped were going to be available last week—I'm told they should be available this week or next week.

I recognize the member's concern. This was a program that we wanted to get out, but it's a new program, it's a new type of program, and I think it's worth doing well. The corporation we've set up wanted to make sure the program runs well.

The member asks a question about the interest rate. It's my understanding that farmers are going to have an opportunity under this program to borrow money at prime.

PETITIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition which reads as follows. It's to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

That is a petition which has been signed by a number of individuals with National Steel Car Ltd of Hamilton, and I have affixed my signature.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of 176 names from members of my riding of Dufferin-Peel. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for York-Durham.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It's Durham-York. My petition reads:

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues surrounding land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information on their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions and collect commissions on resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents in long-term leased communities and where they fall under the rent review legislation;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report on land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

I see I've got a page here from Prescott-Russell waiting for me to sign this.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I thank the member for Durham-York and recognize the member for Scarborough-Agincourt.

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Scarborough North, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Scarborough North.

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I have a petition to table which calls for the government of Ontario to immediately end exclusionary zoning in the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing.

YOUTH MINIMUM WAGE

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have one more directed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has stated its objective to eliminate the youth minimum wage differential by 1992; and

"Whereas such action will seriously reduce available job opportunities for Ontario students;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Until the Minister of Labour can assure the Ontario student population that no student jobs will be lost by the elimination of the youth minimum wage differential, we urge the government to maintain the current differential."

I have not affixed my name to the petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

Mr Speaker, that petition—

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order. There's too much noise in the House. For those who want to conduct conversations, I would invite you to go to the lobbies. Thank you. The member for Mississauga North.

Mr Offer: Do you want me to read the whole petition again, Mr Speaker?

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): No, no, never mind.

Mr Offer: Okay. That petition has been signed by members of North Park Electronics Ltd of Rexdale, Ontario, and I have signed my name to that petition.

1510

REAL ESTATE GAINS

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government of Ontario has promised to introduce a new tax on real estate gains; and

"Whereas there is simply no evidence to suggest that real estate gains taxes either contribute to lower land and housing prices or raise significant revenue for the government; and

"Whereas in some cases a new tax on real estate gains may even raise prices by reducing supply; and

"Whereas the tax as proposed in the NDP's Agenda for People will adversely affect the entire real estate market in our community; and

"Whereas real estate gains are already subject to heavy taxation from federal and provincial governments;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to urge the Honourable Floyd Laughren,

Treasurer of Ontario, not to proceed with an additional tax on real estate gains."

There is a large number of signatures on this petition, which I am happy to sign also.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 186 hardworking members of Local 3767 of the United Steelworkers. These workers from Brantford have asked me to present this petition and it reads:

"We, the undersigned, support your government's amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. It's about time."

I've signed my name to the petition as well.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): I too have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It's signed by 172 people from the areas in and around Cornwall, Prescott, Sarnia, Bradford and Sudbury, and it reads as follows:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will unquestionably increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have signed and fully endorsed this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition here from 72 constituents of the county of Middlesex, in particular the townships of North Dorchester, London, Westminster, Delaware and West Nissouri, and they ask the Legislature of Ontario to set aside the Brant report and to reduce the size of the annexation so that valuable farm land can be protected in the county of Middlesex.

I have signed my name to this petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition of 566 names of people from Thornbury, Kanata, Burford, Brantford, Ashton, Kingston, Wainfleet, Guelph and Fonthill, and it's a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here that the member for Middlesex asked me if I'd present for her:

"Whereas the report of John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended massive, unwarranted, unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to the destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve the municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I know the member for Middlesex would wholeheartedly support this and I affix my name.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario containing 149 signatures from all across this province:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour relation legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here signed by a number of residents from the Sutton-By-The-Lake community:

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on

land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information on their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents of long-term leases and where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report on land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

It's been signed by people like the Barrows and the Dixons and the Gouthros, and I affix my name.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition that's been signed by residents all over my riding. It's to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas it is against United Church of Canada policy to indulge in any type of gambling—gambling casinos bring crime to a community, not everyone has the self-control to limit their betting, low-income people will suffer from unwise use of their resources,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Be it resolved that the Toronto Conference United Church Women do strongly object to the Ontario government's proposed legislation to promote offtrack betting, sports lotteries and gambling casinos."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

It's signed by 415 people from places like Timmins, South Porcupine, Sault Ste Marie and Ancaster. I have affixed my signature to this petition.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here:

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues surrounding land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information on their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place an unfair restriction and collect commissions on resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under the rent review legislation;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and release the committee report on land-leased communities and proposed legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live on land-leased communities."

I affix my name to it.

1520

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr White from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption.

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the City of London;

Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the Pembroke and Area Airport Commission;

Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa;

Bill Pr33, An Act to revive Cinquemani Holdings Limited;

Bill Pr42, An Act to revive Tri-Delta of Toronto;

Bill Pr94, An Act to revive the Rideau Trail Association;

Your committee begs to report the following bills as amended:

Bill Pr18, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa;

Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Property Standards Officers;

Bill Pr86, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TORONTO ISLANDS RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA ZONE RÉSIDENTIELLE DES ÎLES DE TORONTO

Mr Cooke moved first reading of Bill 61, An Act respecting Algonquin and Ward's Islands and respecting the Stewardship of the Residential Community on the Toronto Islands / Loi concernant les îles de Algonquin et Ward's et concernant l'administration de la zone résidentielle des îles de Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT (NIAGARA ESCARPMENT), 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT (ESCARPEMENT DU NIAGARA)

Mr Duignan moved first reading of Bill 62, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act in respect of the Niagara Escarpment / Loi modifiant la Loi sur la protection de l'environnement à l'égard de l'escarpement du Niagara.

Motion agreed to.

Mr Noel Duignan (Halton North): The bill amends the Environmental Protection Act to prohibit all further waste management systems and waste disposals in the Niagara Escarpment plan area set out in the Niagara Escarpment plan.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION MOTION DE CENSURE

Mr Charles Beer (York North): On behalf of Mr Conway, I move want of confidence motion 1.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Would you please read it.

Mr Beer: Yes. I also understand, before I read it, that there has been agreement the time will be split equally among the three parties.

The Deputy Speaker: There is agreement the time would be split. Is it agreed? Agreed.

Mr Beer, on behalf of Mr Conway, moved want of confidence motion 1:

Whereas the number of unemployed students between the ages of 15 and 24 has gone from 11.1% in September 1990 to 18% in April 1992;

And whereas the government has not provided additional job opportunities for students;

And whereas the private sector has also had to reduce the number of opportunities offered to summer students

due to an inability to compete in the current economic climate of the province of Ontario;

And whereas the Ontario student assistance program was recently reduced by \$10 million;

And whereas the number of students applying for student venture capital has declined significantly demonstrating the students' lack of faith in the province's economic performance;

And whereas the youth of this province are seeing no investment in their future by this government;

And whereas this government has managed to increase spending in other sectors which are not in crisis, thus calling into question its spending priorities in this time of recession;

Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of standing order 42(a), the House no longer has confidence in the government.

Mr Beer: I rise to begin the debate on this particularly important issue because I think all members must have an increasing sense that there is a crisis out there in terms of youth unemployment.

I want to begin by reading a quote from some eight years ago that was made by the now Premier of this province who said, "I suggest to you that the fight against youth unemployment is one part, a crucial part, of the fight for full employment in our society."

It is our contention that the actions of this government since its election have done nothing to raise the issue of youth employment to the level where, quite frankly, it needs to be because of the problems we're facing in our society today.

If you go back and look at the throne speeches, at the budget, at the announcements by ministers, particularly in those areas responsible for youth, you will see very, very little, if anything, until most recently that is focused on this problem. I believe we can quote a great number of statistics. We can go through all kinds of alphabet soup of programs that are supposed to help young people.

But the first thing we have to do and what I want to put before the House at this point is to recognize that when we talk about our young people being the future of this province and of this country, if that is to have any reality, to have any meaning, then we have to ensure that in the area of employment we are bringing forward programs, we are working with the private sector and we are working with the educational sector to make sure that in fact that happens.

When we look at the current situation, as was stated in the motion, we see that there's been a dramatic increase in youth unemployment. How do we go about trying to deal with that? How do we find the kinds of jobs that are necessary? I think here it is critical that government take the lead.

In 1985, when we first became the government, one of the most innovative programs we brought in was the Futures program. I would say to the government today that what you need to do is go back and find, in 1992, the emotional, financial commitment to that kind of program but dedicate it to young people and dedicate it to the 1990s because, if members will take their minds back and remember what was at the core of the Futures program, it

was to be focused to ensure that for those young people who were at risk, who needed training, who needed certain kinds of education, those programs would be available and they would be guaranteed two years of employment.

It was a remarkable initiative for its time. It was vital to giving young people a sense of faith, a sense of hope in the society and that they would have a place in it. It was a remarkably successful program.

What is missing at this point is that this government has tried to approach the question of youth unemployment in bits and pieces. What we've got to do is bring it all together, to say that this is a crisis and that the government will have the role of leading the way to a solution.

I think one of the things that has surprised a number of us on this side of the House has been the way in which it appears that the government is slowly whittling away at the role of the Ministry of Skills Development. That ministry was created very specifically so that there could be again a focused attempt to look at the young people who were going to need help, to find the kinds of skills programs that would meet that need and then to put those in place. But what we have seen since this government came into power is not a focus, is not one minister being able to take hold and to say to this House: "These are the kinds of programs that we need. This is what I'm going to do."

1530

The first thing this government needs to do at this point is say, "We have a crisis in terms of youth unemployment." The statistics I read out in the motion, the number of unemployed students aged 15 to 24 going from 11.1% to 18% in 18 months—anyone going anecdotally and talking to his sons, his daughters, the friends of his sons and daughters, will recognize that there is either very little employment opportunity out there, that kids who had reasonable jobs last summer are now having to take ones in which there is much less money available, or there simply is no work.

One of the things that struck me during the short time I served as Minister of Community and Social Services was when young people in the age group of 15 to 24 drop out of high school—and we know that number is in the range of up to 30%—and they don't have the skills, they don't have the training, they don't have the education, they face a future that is really without hope, and we simply cannot allow that to happen. We cannot allow the number of young people, again between 15 and 24, who month after month are increasing the ranks of those who are on social assistance. When we then look at some of the social turmoil we have had in the city of Toronto and other parts of the province, that is but the tip of the iceberg of telling us there is a crisis out there. One of the key ways of ensuring that we don't have that crisis and that we're able to resolve those issues is precisely to see that there's a government that's going to move forward and take some very concrete steps to bring about youth employment.

Si nous pouvons souligner la crise qui existe actuellement dans la société ontarienne, il faut aussi dire que s'il y a un manque de programmes pour la population globalement il y a, même plus important, un manque de pro-

grammation pour la communauté francophone en ce qui concerne l'emploi des jeunes.

Donc, dire qu'on peut simplement mettre le point sur peut-être un groupe ici ou une région de la province là, ce n'est pas suffisant pour résoudre ce problème. Donc, je dis au gouvernement qu'il est très important de dire au ministre de la Formation professionnelle que c'est à lui de nous dire : «Voici les programmes que nous, comme gouvernement, allons mettre en place. Voici les actions que je vais prendre pour travailler avec l'industrie, avec les commerces et avec les institutions éducatives pour assurer en effet qu'il y aura des programmes de formation pour les jeunes qui vont en avoir besoin.»

Without that, we are simply not going to be able to lower the rate of unemployment that we currently find among young people.

I was given a number of speeches that have been given over the years by the Premier, by the Treasurer, by a variety of members in this House on all sides, in all three parties, and it is probably fair to say that we have come close to developing a full program around youth employment. But we have always pulled back from really making sure that what we have is something that is going to work. That's going to have to be one in which this government says, first of all, that it recognizes that, broadly speaking, there is a crisis facing our youth with respect to employment; that we have to go into our schools and look at the kinds of programs that are there. What is it that young people are learning? What are the kinds of apprenticeship programs, the various job programs, the cooperative education programs that are going to enable those young people to find work? What are we doing at the community college level? What are we doing in terms of universities to ensure that those who graduate are going to have jobs?

The area that gets left out so often when we're doing all of this is for the young people who don't fall into those different categories and who are simply out there, often on social assistance. They get lost and that number keeps growing, and it grows at our peril if we are trying to develop some sort of truly just society, a society in which young people will have work.

If we're to deal with this we need to redirect some funds. Again, the motion has said very clearly that "the government has managed to increase spending in other sectors which are not in crisis." This is a sector which is in crisis. There are programs within the Ministry of Community and Social Services, for example, to deal with employment. There are some \$50 million there. Some of those funds could be immediately and specifically directed to this question. Those funds could be used to develop a coordinated program where we set out those young people who are most at risk, the kinds of skills and training they are going to need, and put that money there. Those dollars could be directed to ensuring, even in the short term, employment opportunities for young people. We have to recognize that if people are unemployed, if they don't have jobs, we are going to be paying a whole series of other costs.

Yesterday we had the report that came out from the social assistance task force looking at bringing about new

legislation to ensure that people on social assistance are going to be able to get the kind of training they require for jobs. Clearly what that report said, and the importance of it in terms of improving programs like supports to employment and developing other employment transitional programs for young people, was that if we don't do that we're going to be paying through charges against our correctional system, we're going to be paying because more money will have to go out on our welfare system and we're going to be paying because those young people are not going to be able to add to the economic value of our society.

But we pay in the worst way because we lose those young people. They don't get the opportunity to contribute to society. They don't have the opportunity to find jobs. They then become disillusioned, they're without hope, and it's at that point that the kinds of events we have seen over the last few weeks can happen. We have to recognize that within that is simply a question of those young people seeking to have a sense that they belong in this society and that we believe it's important they have those opportunities.

As we begin this debate and listen to both my colleagues and others who will be speaking in this debate, we as members of this Assembly have to say that we are committed to seeing that this is a number one, front-burner issue, that government has a clear and direct responsibility to act, to lead, to bring the players together and to come up with specific programs which can take advantage of dollars that are already there in the budget and that can be redirected to ensure we help young people.

We do that in two parts, both in the short run and by setting out very clearly in direction to the Minister of Skills Development that we're going to have to have brought into this House a program directed, in my view, to young people, to youth, and to see that that has multi-year funding and will involve all of those other sectors, so that young people, whether they are in college, whether they are in high school, whether they have had to drop out of school, will have training opportunities and jobs that they're going to be able to take advantage of.

I ask that all of us, as we look at the problem facing us, recognize that this is the first requirement: that we make that commitment to our young people and then make the commitment to make the changes we're going to have to to ensure we can provide the employment our young people need, require and deserve.

1540

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): This is quite the opportunity this afternoon to speak to Mr Conway's want of confidence motion. I'd like to speak to it as it appears on Orders and Notices.

The first statement Mr Conway makes is that "the number of unemployed students between the ages of 15 and 24 has gone from 11.1% in September 1990 to 18% in April 1992." One has to wonder about the reasons our young people in Ontario are unemployed during these times. I'd like to begin by taking us back a few years.

We know it's always been a challenge for young people to get summer jobs, and young people have always had

to take challenging jobs, some of which they wouldn't choose if they had a choice. But I think their families and their schools and the employers of this province have always tried to give them just that: a beginning in different kinds of summer work so that we could, of course, establish a value system and give them an opportunity to earn some dollars to put towards their education.

I don't think young people have changed. I still think they're looking for those opportunities, and I believe most of them would do almost anything to work. But the people I'd like to talk about today are the young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who aren't looking for summer jobs: those young people who have either dropped out of school or who have finished their education by age 24 who are looking for permanent jobs.

Why is this issue on the agenda today? I think it is for a couple of reasons. I think one of the reasons we have unemployed students is the state of the economy in Ontario today and probably for the last two or three years. When we look to the private sector, the business community, to give our young people opportunities, it is looking at laying off its most important workers. They're looking at reducing the number of days people work, they're looking at changing full-time employees to part-time employees and they're looking at phasing out work in Ontario altogether.

I think that debate is probably for another time, but it's an extremely important one in these times. If we don't have industry and business investing in Ontario—Canadian industry, North American industry or industry from other parts of the world—if we're not the kind of province people are excited about that they can invest in and know that we'll make it work on their behalf through confidence, hard work and our ability to be competitive, our young people will have fewer and fewer jobs. I didn't want to miss the opportunity to talk about that today.

When we talk about the Ontario student assistance program, many of our young people who will not have the opportunity to go to university or to the colleges of their choice this fall for a number of reasons are very concerned, as is pointed out in the motion this afternoon by the member for Renfrew North, that the OSAP program was reduced by \$10 million.

I'd like to begin my comments on colleges and universities by saying that if Ontario wants to be a player on the global stage something must be done to our deteriorating university system. It's hard for me to stand here as a graduate of the secondary school system in the late 1950s, someone who looked forward to going to university along with my friends—and I have to say that at that time there weren't very many of us who had the opportunity. I grew up in this great city and graduated from Oakwood Collegiate. Many of us wanted to go on, but the universities didn't have the spaces or the college system didn't exist or many of us couldn't afford to go, but more important, you had to be an excellent student to go.

In today's world I think we've given many things to our young people. Their expectations are much higher because I think the opportunities have been there for them, and all of a sudden we see what was a growth in accessibility

being turned around just in these past few months, so as many students who want to go and should go and who are qualified for and deserving of a higher education will not be able to be there.

At the same time, we take a look at what the students who are in our universities tell us with regard to their buildings. Their physical facilities are deteriorating. They're subjected to classes bigger than any of us could ever imagine. Students aren't receiving, in their view, the quality of education they deserve. Their complaints are very specific. They wish they had more time with their professors or their instructors. They would expect that if they were able to contribute in any way to their own tuition they would get the quality and the time they deserve. At the same time as the need increases for post-secondary education, there is going to be a severe lack of faculty to teach these students.

Today this gives me an opportunity to talk about vision and planning. Between now and the year 2000—and I think this would be interesting for any member of the House to know about—50% of all new jobs will require a university degree. These are the projections we hear and read about in the research that's being done, not only in our province and in Canada but across North America; 50% of all new jobs will require a university degree. This is a reality that we have to face and it is being reflected now in the number of mature students we see returning to university.

Many say they're going back because they can't get a job. One has to wonder why they're not getting jobs. Is it because there aren't the jobs available? I think for many there aren't, especially for the traditional summer-type jobs we know about. The kinds of jobs being offered to our students, our young people, require tremendous amounts of training and technology. We know and Ontario knows that would be the specific area we are failing in.

Older people are returning to university because they too, in today's workplace, find it's much more complicated, technology-driven and information-sensitive. They're going back either while they're working, or taking leave of absence or their employers are providing the opportunity for them to return to university because although they've been in the workforce, they too need to be upgraded.

All available predictions about the next 10 years suggest this trend will increase. I've already stated that OSAP will be reduced by \$10 million. Cutting \$10 million will reduce the amount of assistance available at a time when the recession has seriously affected the incomes and opportunities of students. At the same time, universities have stated that there will be more than 2,000 first-year places in universities and applications to colleges will be up some 24%.

I've been participating in the social development committee in the last few weeks, which has been reviewing the Ontario student assistance program. We've heard from a number of organizations and university presidents who are very concerned that the quality of education is rapidly deteriorating. I'm looking forward to being part of the information-provider responsibility that I have in speaking with that committee as it tries to develop some recommenda-

tions for this government. Given that we have had some very interesting and responsible suggestions I hope, as an all-party committee, we can embark upon some new approaches in the whole area of OSAP funding that perhaps none of us would have agreed with at other times if they hadn't been such desperate ones. But we know we have to inject more dollars into the system for the students.

There is another issue I'd like to take the opportunity to talk about, the issue of crown foundations. This was a recommendation during those hearings that was supported by many of the presenters. It's one this government is very much aware of. The establishment of crown foundations in Ontario would certainly put us on a level playing field with other provinces.

It's my understanding that the government is about ready to bring forth this bill. I strongly encourage that because as an individual and certainly in my capacity as the Progressive Conservative critic for Colleges and Universities, it is my responsibility to speak as much as I can to the private sector about getting more money into the university system. If this is a vehicle by which they can do that I think, like the province of British Columbia, we should be taking advantage of it. If we don't do that, many of us will be faced with watching money leave this province, not only to other Canadian provinces, but to American universities where people have obtained their graduate degrees, and even more importantly outside this country.

I see the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology is here today. I hope he would support and bring forth that bill as best he can, which will help us with the crown foundations because we need that money in our universities. We need it especially in the area of industry, trade and technology training. I would be most grateful if that could happen.

1550

I would like to say also that in the area of the debate today, where we're talking about a non-confidence motion in the government because of the lack of support for young people, the lack of support for education and training and the lack of support, I would say, with regard to the management of our education systems, I have to talk a little bit, too, specifically—I think today is an opportunity to tell the government about something it can do now. The crown foundation one is something that should definitely come forward before this session adjourns, because all of us are facing our universities and our colleges on a day-to-day basis and we know the challenges they are facing and the resources they're losing. In fact, even if they were to become more efficient, which I think they can do, and even if we were to give them more money, it wouldn't be enough to help the problems in the short term.

Here's another specific one for the government: With regard to skills training, we know right now we have a wonderful opportunity in Ontario to work with the Canadian government in establishing skills training programs through the OTAB vehicle, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board vehicle. The government announced that it would be supporting this restructuring to the province's training system.

I would say that there wouldn't be a member in this House who doesn't know that this issue has been out for public consultation. We all agree that the responsibility for workplace training, labour force adjustment measures, apprenticeship reform and re-entry training will be transferred to the new agency, which will be run by business, labour, education and the social-labour market partners.

It's a tremendous responsibility. It's an opportunity we shouldn't miss. But there are some concerns and if the government doesn't listen carefully to the concerns as they are being presented to it, either by members of the opposition or members of its own government, I think in the long term, if anybody is visionary, we're going to lose some of the partners we need. It's not too late.

I'd like to list the concerns as we see them and as we have presented them in the House in the past. Perhaps some of them will be new.

First of all, the public that has been involved in making presentations before the committee tells us that the government, believe it or not, on this issue is moving too quickly, that adequate time must be allocated to debate the proposals and to locate the best people to serve on the OTAB and the local boards. I have raised the tremendous concern about the makeup of the board itself in the past. I'm not going to dwell on it today; the minister knows about it.

With regard to the local boards, I've raised the issue that we have a great deal of expertise in the province that was established—or at least the vehicle was established—some eight years ago. Many of these local training boards as they exist right now have, I think, some of the best resources this province has ever known, and some of them are working very well with their local communities. I would hope that where they're working—not where they're not working but where we have good people and where they are working—we ought to keep the best people who have established the links with the business community, with the education community and with the labour community. We shouldn't lose the wonderful links we've established. Those people should be a priority for this government when appointments are made on local boards.

I think one of the issues that has raised the concern of people who have taken the time to go before the committee to advise the committee—I shouldn't say committee; I mean the panel—has been the process itself. I raised it and I talked to the deputy and I can't believe it hasn't been changed. I think our province has lost a great deal of credibility in supporting the five-minute presentation. Can you imagine asking people to communicate with the people they represent, whether they be a training body themselves, whether they be representation from industry, whether they be a representative from labour, going through all the loopholes it takes to get the support in order to go before a panel of this government, only to be told that you've got five minutes?

Mr Speaker, I should tell you that I brought this to the attention of the minister on day two of these panel discussions and that process did not change. I think we lost a lot of credibility by supporting it.

The business community is particularly alarmed by the prospect of an additional payroll tax for training. If we

could get this model up and running as they have in Europe, in West Germany, in Brussels and in the United Kingdom—and we know these models and we know they're working; we know it took a long time to get them going—if we could work with the communities, we would get that kind of support.

But if we're not going to work with all the different partners and if we're going to slap them with another tax before they've ever been asked for specific contributions—I'm now talking about large corporations that have not been asked, that now have sent some of their training people over. When I was in Brussels in January, that's what I saw, an American motor company training people who could have been trained in Ontario. I see again the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology watching me as I speak. I haven't had an opportunity to talk to him about these kinds of things and after today I will phone his office and try to arrange some time.

There are no unorganized labour representatives on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. Unorganized labour makes up 70% of the labour force. This particular concern has been raised on a daily basis through my office and certainly to the panel members. There has to be an answer to it. One has to take a look at how one gets unorganized labour represented. I think this government in particular should be the government that speaks up and says there is a way, even if all you do is go to the local chambers of commerce and say, "Give us a couple of people." If you want it to happen, it will happen.

Since youths are the major consumers of education and training, my question is, will the minister consider giving them a seat on the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board? Today especially, I have to say, as we talk about unemployed students, about student assistance and accessibility to our universities, and about students not applying for student venture capital because their confidence is not there—they don't even think it exists—where they in fact, and I hope this isn't true, are seeing no investment in their future by this government, if we're talking about those kinds of things, surely we should be talking about giving them a representative on this OTAB board or at least on the local boards. I think young people are the ones with the enthusiasm and the excitement and the ideas and we should be supporting them and we should be listening to them.

The community industrial training committees are already effectively networking with their labour and business partners. They have identified the training needs of the community. The question is, why are we dismantling something that is already working and starting from scratch?

I see that my time is coming to a close and I'd just like to finish by saying this: I don't think rewriting curriculum or putting vast amounts of money into our education system or even testing students or even talking about year-round schooling are the simple answers to what I see as being a very big challenge for this government and the education systems in Ontario.

I would sum up by saying I don't think we put our resources into the front lines the way we should. We have

administrative-heavy school boards, administrative-heavy colleges and administrative-heavy universities. We have classes that are too large at all three levels. We need a major redevelopment of the administrations of all of our education and training sectors in this province, and the money must go into the front lines, meaning with the educator and with the student.

The other issue I need to say something about today is that the curriculum in our elementary and secondary schools is long overdue for a major injection of training skills at a very early age. We wouldn't be talking about youth unemployment today to the extent we are if these young people were to stay in school and the school systems were to provide the ongoing training throughout the summer, just like they do in other parts of the world. Ontario and Canada are falling further and further behind. This government will not change this overnight, but what we need from it—with our help, I would expect—would be a long-term plan. We don't have it. We don't have the political will and we didn't have it with the Liberals.

I have to say at this point, and I'll take the opportunity, that I'm surprised to see this kind of motion coming from the Liberals, because they had five years. I'm looking at the former Minister of Skills Development and I know how often he and I talked and I know that he was frustrated because he couldn't get the job done. Why? Because we need the political will and we need a plan and we all have to buy into it and just get on with it. Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity.

1600

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Further debate? The honourable member for Etobicoke-Rexdale.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): I must congratulate the member for London North on what I think is a set of fairly reasonable comments in this debate, comments that I certainly can identify with. She talked about the OTAB program, and what we have tried to do with the OTAB program is recognize that bureaucracies and very large institutions are often insensitive to the needs of business, to the needs of working people and to the training. When we look at the European models, when we look at the Japanese models and some of the models in the Far East of societies that are so much more competitive than we are and that have developed industrial strategies that work, we recognize that training has to be much more at an industry level than it is at the present time. That is the purpose of the OTAB consultations, and I can tell you that in my riding the OTAB consultation gave fairly widespread openings for people to discuss and have considerable input at great length.

I agree with the member for London North with the need to get entrepreneurship or skills at the very grass-roots elementary school level. Indeed, that's what my ministry is doing, and I am consulting with school boards on the entrepreneurship program. As the member for London North well knows, I've been involved with the Creative Education Foundation for a number of years, and indeed that's the only cross-border reason I go to Buffalo at any

time, because I think they've set up some very interesting research there in teaching entrepreneur and creativity skills. We're actively pursuing our entrepreneurship program and I am quite prepared to discuss it with any school board and we are happy to send speakers and facilitators in.

I'm also concerned, quite frankly, when I look at the past record of governments here: that they have really done very little to remedy what I consider to be a very serious problem in making us competitive. If we look at the number of engineers who graduate in Ontario, while it may be better than other provinces, it is still very small in comparison to Japan—indeed about half the rate per capita of the Japanese. When I look at who are involving themselves in the high-tech and science and engineering programs, we are still missing a great amount of talent, namely the female candidates in those programs. We have to do more in that area.

I want to say, though, that if you look at what we are doing in the creation of jobs and opportunities for youth you see that small and medium-sized businesses are the prime source of employment in Ontario. Our government supports Ontario businesses—small, medium and large. In fact, if you look at the budget for my ministry you find that my budget, namely the financial support for businesses, be it in research, in loan guarantees, in the various ways in which we are working with business, in a year in which we have had, because of budgetary constraints, to cut the budgets of some 20 ministries, we have a budget 96% higher than the last year of the Liberal government of 1989. That is money that is going into business in the form of loan guarantees and paying salaries of skilled people to work for a period of three years with small companies and in the way of providing new jobs and new opportunities in those industries that are creating value added products.

Just an example of that kind of thing is that this week a Windsor firm received financial assistance from the Ontario Development Corp. I have a whole list that goes on page after page that can tell you how many jobs were created in various companies. I'd be happy to mail it out to any of the viewers who would like to see where our investments are going. It's very large indeed. The Windsor firm received financial assistance from ODC, and due to an anticipated increase in orders the company expects that it will grow by some 50 employees as a result of that.

So it isn't just the de Havillands—which the Conservative Party wanted to write off in the aerospace industry and do nothing for; there are small companies across this province that we are working with.

If you look at specific programs for our clients of between 18 and 25 years, you see that in my ministry the loans approved since September 1990 in the new ventures program were some 447 and the capital advanced was some \$6.1 million.

If you look at the university small business consulting service, some 230 students took advantage through the 15 units operating throughout our province.

If you look at the small business self-help publications—that is, publications that will assist people in starting up businesses or improving their small businesses in

such areas as marketing, business planning and record-keeping—you find that a great number of young people have taken advantage of them.

The Starting a Small Business in Ontario publication: Many of the people who are in that age group are making use of that guide, and copies are available to many of them.

Our business self-help offices: We're in the process now of expanding them. We're going into the Niagara-St Catharines area and I've been meeting with municipal officials there. Twenty-six offices now are located and we're looking forward to the 27th one in the Niagara Peninsula, in partnership with the local municipalities. Since September 1990, 5,054 young people under the age of 30 have registered as clients of the business self-help offices.

We've been conducting small business seminars. Since September 1990 around this province, 1,260 young people—that is, people under the age of 30—have registered for our seminar programs, and our evaluations have certainly shown that they have been very successful.

In addition to the programs we have for creating youth employment, the Ontario government is already supporting some 14,500 summer jobs throughout the province. I was pleased that the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Bob Rae, came to my riding to announce an additional \$20 million for the Jobs Ontario Youth program. That will create 8,500 new summer jobs.

Interjection: They're not all in your riding.

Hon Mr Philip: They're not all in my riding. But some of them are in my riding, and I was pleased that the Premier came to my riding to announce it.

A total of \$13.7 million will create 5,000 jobs in the greater Metropolitan Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and Windsor areas, and the remaining \$6.3 million will go into the existing provincial summer employment programs and create 3,500 jobs.

So what I'm saying is that we are creating new jobs for young people through some very specific initiatives, but we are also working on the training front to improve the chances of those who are in the schools now of finding satisfactory entrepreneurial, high-tech, high value added, high-paying jobs when they graduate.

If you look at the budget you see that we have a number of programs that will help industries to create even more jobs for young people. The \$150-million sector partnership fund, which I had been talking about only yesterday with the auto parts industry and have been very actively working with the plastics industry on, will create some tremendous opportunities in the way of research and development and the creation of new jobs in that area.

We have the \$1.1-billion Jobs Ontario training fund, which will create 100,000 jobs. That's an excellent program that will create many jobs for young people.

We have the Ontario investment fund, which we had questions on today by the Conservatives. They may not like it, but I can tell you that those people who are in the investment community and in the high-tech industries really wonder why the Conservatives as a government sat back for so many years when the Europeans were developing

the type of fund that will create the high value added jobs we should be developing in this province.

Mr Speaker, I've been told by colleagues that many members of our cabinet and of our caucus wish to speak. I'd just like to say that we are working, both as my ministry and indeed as a government, on creating new opportunities.

We have a strategy, which is more than previous governments have had. I'm very proud of that strategy and I have confidence in the work of this government. The young people of this province tell me, as I go around the province, that they have confidence in this. We're doing a lot better than any previous government has ever done for young people and for employment.

1610

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Mr Speaker, I want to thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make my few comments in regard to this excellent motion. I see this motion as a desperate appeal by concerned legislators in this House in regard to our young people, who are in desperate need at a time when the economy and many things are not working in their favour.

I thought about this motion and I thought how I would best approach this, and I came across a rather excellent comment made by the now Premier in 1987. It says it all. It says:

"The quality of education you are fighting for will come when governments are prepared to recognize education as the crucial investment in the future that it is. Governments which fail to invest in education, as had been so clearly the case in this province in the past decade, are not simply shortchanging a generation of students. They are literally shortchanging the country. As information and knowledge become more and more crucial to our collective future, a failure to invest undercuts the very basis of economic growth and economic prosperity."

Within that comment, it is well said. As an individual who had spent 14 years as an administrator in the college system, I have seen many of our young people come to realize their dreams and aspirations and go out into the world to show that they can contribute.

We've often heard that the most valuable resource we have in our country is our people. But it is very sad to see that our young people are being more or less neglected. As the member for London North has indicated, as previous Minister of Skills Development I made many appeals to put some money towards that kind of initiative so that we could invest properly in our people.

I just want to highlight some of the things facing our young people, those who want to go on for education, those who have some hope in this government too that their OSAP would be supplemented adequately so they could advance their knowledge and training, only to be told that \$10 million was cut from their OSAP. They are seeing that dream fade as that happens.

We also saw an economy that has really devastated some of the dreams of getting jobs to supplement their income. That has also gone.

We saw also the government—and I'm not here to blame, just to say what the reality is all about. The government levied some taxes, more on some of the parents who would have liked to assist those students into school, and now they are being taxed more. What they have done is move the threshold, call them middle class and give them more taxes.

We have also seen the matter of the literacy level of some of our young people as something that we should not be very proud of. The functional illiteracy rate in this country of about 25% of our adults is an indication that our resources are not being used properly. This is a very serious matter. We hope the government will not continue to wait for a demonstration by young people on the streets showing their frustration, saying, "We need to be better utilized, given opportunities in order that we can contribute to this country, contribute to this province."

They are crying out. They are crying out desperately. My constituency of Scarborough North is a very young constituency in the sense that there is a very large group of young people, and the dropout rate in the schools is alarming. It is telling us that we are spending a considerable amount of money in the system but not getting the results. As legislators, we appeal to the minister and the Premier, who seem to have commitment to this kind of cause, that not only money should be put there but also political will.

A very important area of the education system is counselling. We have seen that the area of counselling for young people is quite inadequate. Young people are not given the opportunity to sit down and discuss the directions in which they would like to go. It's unfortunate that we as a country, while considering ourselves a First World nation, are unable to bring out the qualities in our children and young people that we would have, with the lack of jobs and the lack of proper training. We hope that this government, in this today, which is so important, will address the issue adequately.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Curling: Although the hecklers on the other side may not understand the issue because they may feel somehow that it's a partisan issue, it's an issue of concern for the best resource we have in our country. We hope that we can work cooperatively. I think the motion is a very constructive motion that should be addressed and should be listened to. I think we should put sufficient funds and adequate resources into this issue in order that we can have the type of individuals to make sure we can produce and compete in this global economy.

Of course, we blame it on recession and blame it on former governments and other governments, but this is not the time to do that. While parents are bickering about whose responsibility it is, the children are starving for education and are unable to produce in the way they should.

Mr Speaker, in summary, in the short time I have I want to thank you very much. I hope that all the members

here will support this motion and that the government will address it accordingly.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): It's a pleasure to participate in this debate on a subject that I think all members of this House are concerned with, and that is the employment of the young people in this province.

I must say that I certainly will be supporting the resolution, but at first glance I look at the resolution in the opening proviso, where they talk about how the employment rate of the unemployed students started in September 1990 at 11.1%. What in the world was this government doing when it was in power? I am referring to the Liberal government when it was in power. Why has no long-term strategy been developed by the Liberal government? Why have they waited until now to raise their concerns? I say that they're a little late in raising their concerns as to what this present government is doing with respect to youth employment in this province.

I will digress somewhat, and that is to the education of our youth in this province. I expressed some concern when I looked at the news stories this morning, particularly the report of Mr Lewis in this morning's Toronto Star when he delivered his report to the Premier. I'm very concerned if what I interpret Mr Lewis is suggesting is that the quota system be implemented in our educational system in this province. I have grave concerns about that.

1620

To quote the Toronto Star, he said, "The Minister of Education, through his new assistant deputy minister, establish a strong monitoring mechanism to follow up the implementation of multicultural and anti-racism policies in the schools boards of Ontario." That seems relatively harmless enough.

But the article then proceeds and says: "The parliamentary assistant to the Premier, Zanana Akande, continues to pursue the revision of curriculum at every level of education, so it fully reflects the profound multicultural changes in Ontario society. She might also pursue, as a logical accompanying reform vital to minority students, the elimination of streaming in" the Ontario system.

Finally, it's suggested that "The Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Minister of Colleges and Universities, review admission requirement to the faculties of education in Ontario, in order to ensure that the faculties make every effort to attract and enrol qualified visible minority candidates."

I have a great deal of concern with that. I thought education in this province was for all of us, for everyone. The colour of your skin or your race or your religion doesn't matter when qualifying to get into university. What is important are your qualifications. Qualifications appear to be nothing to this government with regard to how you're going to be educated. What is important is the colour of your skin.

I hope I'm reading this report wrong. I hope the quota system isn't being suggested to be implemented into our system, because the problem of youth that's being suggested by this resolution is nothing if this is how we're going to educate the young people of this province—that

it's going to be dependent on the colour of your skin. I do hope this government will not follow that recommendation and the quota system will not be implemented.

One of the major concerns we have in this province is that we're now competing in a global community. More and more of us must be more and more highly qualified to compete in a global community. Every nation is becoming better and better educated. But what is the emphasis of education in this province? We look at the emphasis of the Minister of Education and the amount of funding he's providing to our secondary schools and our post-secondary schools. Clearly the emphasis is not on education; the emphasis is not to keep up. If you don't keep up, how in the world are individuals and companies going to compete in the global community? I think that is one of the first concerns we must look at: getting back into educating not only our young people but all the people in this province, and certainly do not implement the quota system.

Certainly the suggestion that has been made by the Premier, the announcement that there would be a \$20-million summer job creation program geared towards black youth—and it talks about 8,500 jobs of two months' duration paying the minimum wage of \$6 an hour for workers between the ages of 15 and 24. I must say I have a lot of trouble with the mathematics in what is being calculated.

The Jobs Ontario fund has increased its commitment to the jobs of the Ontario fund that have been announced by \$20 million, saying it will provide 8,500 new jobs at minimum wage, \$6, for 15- to 24-year-olds. The minimum wage for under 18 years of age is \$5.55. The minimum wage for over 18 years of age is \$6. When you apply the mathematics of this to what is being implemented, you come up with some interesting information: \$20 million divided by the promised 8,500 jobs at eight weeks—because that's what they would be employed for, the summer months—works out to a minimum wage of \$8.17 per hour. I can't believe that is the intent, that they're going to be paying the students of this province \$8.17 per hour. I can't believe that is their intent.

Divided by the real minimum wage of \$6 times the eight weeks of those jobs, the \$20 million is supposed to actually work out to a larger amount of jobs, not the 8,500 jobs. So which is it? Where is the extra \$3.68 million going? If you follow these calculations through, something doesn't match. Is this the new NDP math? It is a lot of money, \$3.68 million, particularly with the vast number of students unemployed in this province. Where is this \$3.68 million going? Is it going for the administration? Is it going for bureaucrats to pay for all this? It gives me great concern.

Again, with regard to the emphasis on the colour of your skin as to whether you're going to get these jobs, why are we not providing assistance to all the young people of this province? It's almost racist in its suggestion. I hope this government will reconsider its position and look at all the students of this province, all the young people of this province who are indeed looking for assistance to survive.

I have made some inquiries as to the seriousness of unemployment in my own riding of Dufferin-Peel. From May to April 1991—and this was provided to me by the

director of the Canada student employment office in my riding—there was a total of 360 vacancies available. The total placements made during that same period of time were 131. From April to May of this year the total vacancies were 139 and the total placements were 54.

That means there have been 53% fewer vacancies, fewer jobs available in my riding to this particular point in time. There's been 59% fewer placements this year to this particular point in time. Why is it always the urban communities? Why not all the province of Ontario? There are students all over this province of all colours, all races, all religions—

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): And all ages.

Mr Tilson: —and all ages who desperately need employment. Why are we concentrating on the city of Toronto? Why are we concentrating on one particular colour?

Specifically, I am concerned that there's no assistance to my riding. I'm sure that any rural representatives or people who represent people in the rural communities are feeling the same way. The employment situation in my riding—and my riding is typical, like any other non-urban riding—has certainly become stagnant currently. No long-range policies have been put forward by this government.

Most of the work that comes through now in my riding is farm or menial type of work. There is very little full-time work of any kind. There are a couple of days here or a couple of hours there. That's really all that's available. They try to put more people into student venture loans, but there's a limited amount of funds for this across the province. There are people with physical education degrees who are cutting grass or working as caddies at golf courses in my riding. It's a very serious concern in my riding and certainly we will be supporting the resolution that's being put forward by Mr Conway.

I emphasize again that when I look at this announcement made by the Premier it appears to be as the result of the rampage on Yonge Street. What about the violence that occurred on the Toronto Islands? When you're unemployed, when you need food, when you need to be educated, there's social unrest and it has nothing to do with your race or colour. It has nothing to do with that. That's the real problem in the summer of 1992. It's a problem of lack of jobs. There is no long-range strategy.

I have just a couple of quotes that were made. Mayor Rowlands of Toronto has said, "What will happen eight weeks from now when the jobs end?" Black Action Defence Committee cofounder Dudley Laws echoed the comments of Mrs Rowlands. "I feel this is good to some extent, but I would like to see a long-term employment strategy developed."

I will be supporting the resolution because I don't think the government has come near to solving the employment problem of our young people in this province.

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The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Ms Zanana L. Akande (St Andrew-St Patrick): I rise to address the motion, to speak against it, to speak about the moves of this government, to speak about the

actions of this government in response to the needs of youth in relation to employment.

I want to be certain that I set in context an entire picture of what this government has done and continues to do in order to employ youth, in order to respond to the needs of students, in order to make certain that they have their place or an opportunity to take their place within the employment world.

I have to paint a picture. I have to tell you that the Futures program, which was initiated previously, has been maintained by this government. As a matter of fact, it has been maintained to the point of having 28,500 employment spaces for youth. This is not all. The summer Experience program has been continued. The northern training opportunities program has provided 1,600 jobs. Youth Start-Up has provided 4,050 jobs. Summer programs such as these have created 14,500 jobs in addition to the 28,500 I've referred to before.

There have been jobs out there and they have been maintained. Ministries have continued to try to employ youth in as many different positions as possible.

It is not a new response. It is not enough. It is never enough and it will never be enough until every youth is employed, until every student has a job, every student has a chance. But let me define for you who every student is to me. Every student in this province includes white students. They include Chinese students, they include East Indian students, and yes, they include black students.

The youth employment services centres' workers tell me an interesting fact. In Metro Toronto, though black youth participation in their employment programs is 33%, when we in fact checked the percentage of black youth actually employed through those centres, the percentage drops to 6%. I asked them why. I wanted to be sure that I heard and that my impression reflected their story, not my assumptions, so I asked them why. They're in the field. They're working with youth. They're in the field of working with all youth and they have employment centres which are accessible and which serve all youth.

I said, "Why, then, please explain to me, does the percentage drop considerably when black youth approach the employment situation?" They told me, "The job disappears." I said, "Oh, really?" They said, "Yes, and when we send another youth, a white youth, to the same job immediately afterwards, it reappears again."

It's a phenomenon. The employers aren't Mandrake. The employers are people we know. They are people from whom we buy. They are people who employ others within this province, but the job disappears and miraculously reappears when another youth is sent.

They have told me that the average application, or the number of times a black youth must apply for a job through them before they are connected with work is 23 times—23 times. Can you imagine the frustration? Can you imagine the feeling of worthlessness? These are not uneducated youth. These are not people who create disturbances on Yonge Street. These are not all people who have not ascribed to and put forth the effort within schools and within our centres of education and within our universities to prepare themselves for this. These are those people and

yet they cannot achieve that link, at least not easily. Yet they persist.

It's interesting that when we designed a part of this new youth employment project, we focused 5,000 jobs in a program where we would reach out to black youth, open the doors wider—not to exclude anyone else, but to include everyone—but reach out, open the doors wider and say yes to those employers. When you sign on as an employer in this particular program you will agree to hire youth—all youth, not excluding black youth.

It was interesting for me to do that. As I've said before in this House, I was born in this province, in this city, not far from here. It was interesting to do that because I never would have guessed that in 1992 I would have been a part of the program to open the doors wider to include people who look like my children, and yet I am. It's surprising to me because, you see, it should have been done. All employers in this province should open their doors wide. All employers in this province who seek excellence should want the widest possible accessibility so they can select the very best. Opening the doors wider does not mean you lessen your standards; it means you emphasize them, insist upon them and it is more likely that you will achieve them. That is what we have done.

I must say to you that I am somewhat saddened in that it was necessary for me to do it. I have to say to you too that it is late in coming. I pay taxes to this province; so did my parents. I had always grown to expect that the things I was designing were a reality. Yet I was told—and I have known and there are hundreds of studies which identify that—that in fact it was necessary for me to very deliberately and determinedly, with the assistance of many others, design a program to open the doors wider.

I tell you, Mr Speaker, I am not the only one to find this. I have quoted from the youth employment service workers. Let me tell you what Matt Barrett from the Bank of Montreal, the CEO of the Bank of Montreal, says. He says, "I am particularly happy to be a part of this kind of initiative," the same kind of initiative he has encouraged his company to invest in because he realizes that when you open the doors wider, you invite excellence and you're most likely to achieve it. It has heartened me and encouraged me that many of the CEOs from many different companies across this province have said to us they want to be involved in something of a longer term which in fact draws education together, draws skills together, draws our training groups together and looks at the design of programs that will lead to an experience, lead to longer-term employment and then to permanent employment for our youth.

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We recognize and we know—I speak now as an educator—that education is an evolving thing, that it should move with its people, that it should respond to the needs of society and that it is different today from what it was yesterday. When it is not, there is something wrong with it. We do not suggest that you throw out all the tenets of education; we only suggest that it evolve enough to recognize that there are people in this society today who maybe were not as dominant years ago. We only insist that it

recognize and emphasize that we are part of the society, that we have been for a very long time and that we wish to and can contribute and that we have been doing so sometimes in a very aggressive way because the door is not opened wide enough.

There is so much more that I could say. There is so much more that I could point out in order to speak to the youth and to the education system and to speak for all the people in this province, because by their having an opportunity to work with us all together, live with us, be educated by us and with us and about us, they too gain. Yes, I do indeed stand today to speak in opposition to this motion.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): I'm pleased to rise in today's debate and I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me the few minutes I have to participate. Very many members of our caucus wanted the opportunity to speak and they knew how important this was to me.

In my riding of Oriole 18.7% of the population is between the ages of 15 and 24. So I think today's debate of lack of confidence in the government and in its strategy for assisting youth is extremely pertinent to my riding and particularly to youth in my riding.

I'm very concerned, because our youth are our future. We've heard some wonderful words from Bob Rae over the years when he was Leader of the Opposition and from Floyd Laughren when he was on the opposition benches. My concern is that I believe they do know what needs to be done, but because of the misguided priorities which perhaps began as inexperience but today really suggest a lack of political will and a lack of the understanding of the need to commit resources appropriately to deal with the issues of youth unemployment, this government has disappointed the youth in the riding of Oriole and, I believe, has placed in jeopardy the future of many of our young people in this province.

When I talk about priorities I want to point out that the government has accepted that we have 18% youth unemployment in Ontario, that 18% of our youth is unemployed. That translates into a number in excess of 195,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who have no hope for employment at this time in this province because of the lack of action of this government.

What we have just heard from apologists from the government benches is that job creation in the area of approximately 20,000 to 25,000 jobs is the best they could do to respond to the needs of almost 200,000 students. Not only is that not enough, I say to the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, it is so woefully inadequate that the youth of this province have a right to deserve and expect more and better priorities from this NDP government.

Let me tell you where the NDP government put its resources so that they are not available for youth employment opportunities in this province. They had money for civil servants, increases in wages to the civil service not only here in the province of Ontario but right across the broader public sector in the first year of their mandate. Those increases in wages and salaries, which equalled some 14% on the base budget of the province of Ontario, meant that they did not have the money to put into youth employment opportunities during this very serious recession.

We've heard that they have replaced the dollars. They announced \$40 million for youth employment opportunities this summer and we said, "Isn't that terrific." I say that's not terrific because \$474 million was added to the base of dollars for doctors, the highest-paid professionals in this province. I know many of those doctors realize that the health of young people is directly related to their ability to work, to their opportunities to get that first job. I know many of the doctors in this province would have been happy to see those dollars allocated and reallocated to youth employment programs.

We saw huge resources being allocated in areas that were highly questionable. We've seen a lot of government waste. I say to you that in his budget the Treasurer did not even acknowledge the needs of youth in our society. We know education is a keystone to fighting the poverty cycle and ensuring a brighter future for our youth, yet we have seen historically low transfer payments from this NDP government.

On behalf of my constituents in the riding of Oriole, on behalf of the 18% of my constituents between the ages of 15 and 24, I say to the government that it has failed to address their needs, failed dismally in responding to the problems of youth in our society and failed to recognize that the youth are our future. I will be supporting this amendment.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It's very difficult to debate a motion about unemployment excluding any section within the population. The argument could be, why is youth unemployment so high? Because general unemployment is high. Why is general unemployment so high? It always comes back to the economy, whether you're talking about youth unemployment or just unemployment in general, within regions and so on and so forth.

I came across an interesting book a few months back. The name escapes me, but it was written by Domingo Cavallo, who is now the finance minister for Argentina. The English translation of the title is *What Argentina Could Have Become*. I mention this book at this time because its findings are really quite intriguing. As recently as 40 years ago, Canada and Argentina were economic equals. If compared today, Canada has prospered while Argentina has experienced a long, steady decline.

You talk about it through employment or economics. In trying to determine why, the book reveals a number of issues as current today in the crisis we're in as they were through the past four years. Its author believes that Argentina's decline began as a result of the protectionist, inward-looking policy adopted by its leaders following the Depression of the 1930s. It was a bid to stimulate their local economy. We see it here today.

Under the populist leader Juan Peron, Argentina severely regulated its economy, nationalized private industry and adopted protective tariffs to nurture a local industrial base and expand social welfare programs. The exclusion of outside competition ultimately made local industry inefficient while a bloated bureaucracy, created to administer programs, added to the escalating deficit, high inflation and recession. A

populist leader, high deficits, expanding welfare programs, protectionism: It's exactly the recipe we have today.

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Mr Cavallo stresses that while Argentina was declining, Canada encouraged foreign investment and open competition, and in the end Canada ended up with a stronger industrial base and a better level of social services to boot, as well as a stronger employment roll: youth, non-youth, all colours.

As is the case on countless occasions, it takes a foreigner to make Canadians see when they are doing something right. It's hard to push forward without having to convince some people they are moving backwards, becoming the Argentina of the north. A country, I might add, that devalues its dollar every time it wants to stimulate exports is not what I call moving forward.

If there is one province this country depends upon, it's the province of Ontario. We talk about unemployment. Last year's budget delivered us a \$10-billion, now an \$11-billion deficit. This year we're going to see a \$14-billion deficit. The NDP says that in order to keep the deficit down it has to increase some taxes. What they don't tell you is that they've already increased the taxes by \$1.1 billion this year based on last year's budget.

All this is coming from that rebel group, when we talk about unemployment, which last year said it was going to beat the recession its way. What a difference a year makes. Now they're looking for another quick fix, and we heard the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology explain the quick fix.

What I'm trying to say is that structural change and improvement does not come from job creation programs the government thinks it has created. It doesn't come from building a new bridge, a road, a dam or a public monument. Structural change can only be achieved through co-operation with business, labour and government. Creating an attractive climate for investment is the best thing a government can do to reduce its unemployment rolls. It can only do that, and that's only what it can hope to achieve, and one of the best ways to chase away employment or investment is to tax and regulate companies to death.

Government-sponsored capital spending is not a quick fix to prosperity. This was proven in the 1930s, but unfortunately some people have forgotten this lesson. The reason it doesn't work is that government has no idea where to productively spend its money. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology is a perfect example. He doesn't know where to productively spend his money. So they spend it on bridges and roads and roads and bridges and fantasies called job creation programs. It's just a fancy name. They call it infrastructures job creation, which means bridges and roads and roads and bridges.

This is a common theme to many government schemes. These government schemes simply don't work. They spend thousands of dollars to study government-run auto insurance and then they tell everyone they were just kidding; no job creation. They talk about Sunday shopping. Was there any job creation in the first six months of that? No, sir. There wasn't any job creation in Sunday shopping.

Hon Mr Philip: Which one of the three positions of your party do you take on that?

Mr Stockwell: I'm trying to get through this, Mr Philip. I allowed you to finish your comments. I would ask if you would do the same. And I listened very intently, sir.

Let's take a look at the labour reforms. You want job creation over there? Examine the labour reforms, for youth or anyone, if you want job creation.

Let's look at the three US states where the majority of automobile production takes place, namely, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. First, the right to use replacement workers during a strike: in the US, yes; Ontario, no. Certification with a vote, secret ballot: Ontario, no secret ballot; the US, yes. Unionization of managerial staff: in the US, no; in Canada, Ontario, yes. Statutory termination pay, laid off or plant closures: zero, compared to eight weeks. Finally, workers' compensation premium paid by employer per \$100 of payroll: in the US, \$1.80 to \$2.24; in Ontario, \$3.41.

Someone please tell me why any potential investor would favour Ontario as a result of these reforms?

Hon Mr Philip: Ford just put in \$2.4 billion; it favours Ontario.

The Acting Chair: Order.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Speaker, I'm doing my best. If you could bring the minister to order, I'd appreciate it.

Hon Mr Philip: It's \$2.4 billion; your government never got that.

Mr Stockwell: Would you stop the clock then, please?

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the honourable member for Etobicoke-Rexdale to please keep order. The honourable member for Etobicoke West has the floor.

Mr Stockwell: The problem is when we talk about unemployment and the crisis and recession we're in today, one discovers this: The conversation quickly deteriorates into us versus them. The lack of cooperation between labour and management in this province has become mythical in its proportions. I believe the important issue to remember is that the problem with organized labour in this province is not the level of wages it is paid. That's not the issue. Anyone who believes that is dead wrong. Blaming our decline in competitiveness on escalating wages alone is quite simply a copout, a convenient excuse used by business.

Consider the three countries we compete with in most areas of manufactured goods, manufactured goods that create jobs for everyone: Japan, Germany and the United States. Canadian industrial workers earn on average less than their counterparts in those three countries. In fact, they earn a full 30% less than in Germany. Why are these countries able to compete and we're not? Why do they get jobs and we can't? Where the labour force differs is in terms of flexibility. Canada remains a world leader in the number of days lost to strikes. Unions continue to show little flexibility when they deal in multitudes of narrow and non-interactive job classifications, restrictions on shift scheduling, grievance filing as opposed to discussion, restriction on temporary or part-time labour, and the list goes on.

We talk about unemployment. Before you can employ the people you have to have jobs. Why don't we have jobs? I'll continue. The results: Companies can't retrain or retool quickly enough to adapt to the fast-changing global markets. Student employment—you haven't got employment for anybody. The proposed labour laws do nothing to improve the general welfare of the average worker, but go a long way to further restrict flexibility in managing Ontario's workforce. All this has to do with student employment. Employment is employment. Why is youth unemployment so high? Unemployment in general is high. It's simple. Whether they are youth or middle-aged men or women, they're all out of work. So who gains here? Union leaders, who can perpetuate their existence through legislation, and the NDP, which secures a continued source of financial support through its union dues.

However, as I mentioned before, labour should not bear the brunt of blame for the province's economic woes. Business and government are also to blame. Business and government must share the blame. Generations, generally representative of the age of most CEOs and senior business people in this province, grew up with the belief that proximity to resources and the commercial extraction of resources were the keys to economic prosperity. That's what they believed and that's still what they believe.

The unfortunate truth of today is that this is no longer the case and perhaps has not been for the past 15 years. While we in Canada were taking an easy ride on the back of our natural endowments, countries like Japan were concentrating on the true key to prosperity, namely, productivity improvement. That creates jobs. Productivity over the last 10 years in Canada experienced the lowest growth of any G-7 industrialized country. We were in last place. That's why we lost jobs. Between 1985 and 1991 the entire industrial production of Canada increased at a meagre 3.5%. Japan increased 28.4%. That's why we're losing jobs.

As the manufacturing heartland of Canada, we here in Ontario should be concerned. We must recognize where business and government have failed in our economic framework. The ride on the natural endowment train is over and it's no political party's fault. It's not a union fault; it's not a business fault. We're all to blame.

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Our industries have fallen far behind the world leaders in capital investment. In the mid-1980s producers relying on the low dollar didn't bother to reinvest in new equipment and machinery and we as government did little to encourage them—nothing. The high level of interest rates over the last 10 years forced producers to put off borrowing for new equipment and it was less costly in the short run to simply add another shift. The public sector, with its unquenchable need for money to finance its deficit, squeezed out producers from the capital markets. Dividend payouts in Canada as a percentage of profits were among the highest in the industrialized world. They took their money and ran, that's what happened.

Unfortunately, business has also fallen behind in investment in human stock and employment. Again, we as government did little to change this trend. Canada ranks

near the bottom in the amount of funds invested in jobs and skills training as a percentage of sales. Private sector investment creates jobs, retrain people, creates employment.

Investment into research and development is also near the bottom of the pack. Do you want to hear about technology, Mr Speaker? Over 60% of the province's newsprint machines were installed before the Great Depression, and we ask why we have unemployment. We're antiquated. We're out of touch. We don't have any degree of confidence in the unions, the business or the government today. They don't work together.

I don't believe that every Conservative government that came down the pike these past few years was right. I think they made mistakes, as I think this government is making mistakes. Be forewarned. Let me tell you, youth or any other unemployment, government never created a job in its life—never. They created a new tax. It's our job to create the climate for new jobs. Government doesn't create work.

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): It's a pleasure to be able to respond to this motion by the member for Renfrew North this afternoon here in the House. I'd like to take you, Mr Speaker, and some of the members back to a press release that was issued on June 5, 1992. It says, "\$20 million through Jobs Ontario Youth will create 8,500 summer jobs" throughout the province of Ontario. We know that is not a vast number of jobs in a time when we are still locked into a recession, and we hope things will get a little bit better, but 8,500 should be a good start.

Along with the members from the Windsor area, the member for Windsor-Walkerville and the member for Windsor-Riverside, we're proud of this announcement. I want to quote from this press release:

"As we said in the April budget, jobs are a top priority for the government and the people of Ontario," said Premier Rae. The Premier was speaking at Thistletown Multi Service Centre in Rexdale. 'Employment is a key issue. This announcement is about working through a partnership of government, community and business to help more young people, particularly in the black community, get the experience of a summer job.'"

I'd like to take a few minutes to make some observations. After listening to the debate, I think one observation needs to be made. The member for Renfrew North should know better than to lay total blame on this government for all the problems we face in this problem with youth. If the previous Liberal government, of which the member was a prominent minister, had spent more time dealing with the crux of the problems of the young people and less time wheeling and dealing with developers, we might not find ourselves in the mess we are.

I think we would all be better off if the member for Renfrew North did not play political games with such important issues. Instead of laying criticism, he could have devoted some more time to offering some solid types of solutions to this issue we all face in this Legislature. Indeed, I say it is a quandary that we find ourselves in, but the member for Renfrew North has not expounded and has not spent enough time to find some solutions.

No one will disagree that this problem is crucial, but I ask members to be fair in examining what our government is doing to be heard. The federal government, for all its rhetoric about prosperity and job creation, has done little or next to nothing in the area of job creation for the young people in Ontario. The province, as usual, is left standing alone waiting for Ottawa to respond.

Let's look for just a few minutes at what the federal government has done in the area of job creation for young people. In 1990 the Mulroney government cut \$40 million from the summer employment experience portion of the Challenge program. The result of this was to pit student against student for some very scarce government training and employment opportunity dollars. There was no commitment from Ottawa in this area.

Can you imagine that at a time when we need job creation the most, the federal government, for all its rhetoric about the importance of youth and progress and investment, is cutting funding for job creation for youth? What a shameful and cowardly act. We are again being let down by the federal government in Ottawa.

I want to mention too that there are some individuals and organizations in Ontario which will be joining a list of sponsors as additional jobs are created in the province. Organizations like the Bank of Montreal, Canadian Tire, Eaton's, IBM Canada Ltd, Ontario Hydro and also the University of Toronto will be working alongside with us.

Today the federal government has closed many Canada employment centres for students and the result has been that fewer and fewer young people have the opportunity to be placed in existing jobs.

I'd like to spend some time talking about our government and what we are doing to try to solve this problem. First I'd like to talk about what is happening in my own riding of Windsor-Sandwich. It was announced this month that a couple of centres will coordinate interviewing, screening and hiring for the young people of Windsor—these are two centres: the Black Canadian Ethnic Club and St Clair College—and will create an estimated 750 jobs in the city of Windsor. This is proof positive that this government is diligently working to clear up this problem and we are already seeing some results.

Our government acted quickly and decisively in order to deal with the problem as best we could. The Premier appointed the member for St Andrew-St Patrick as his parliamentary assistant in order to deal specifically with the problems of youth unemployment.

On June 5, as I've mentioned, the Premier announced that through Jobs Ontario Youth our government will spend \$20 million and create 8,500 new summer jobs—this is in addition to the 14,500 summer jobs the government already supports throughout Ontario—programs like summer Experience, which received a \$2-million increase, and the Environmental Youth Corps, which received a \$1-million increase.

Interjections.

Mr Dadamo: I'd like to continue. The Ontario Rangers program received a \$1-million increase and the northern

training opportunities program received an additional \$2.3 million.

The new funding will bring the total provincial contribution to \$45.7 million, and this represents a 73% increase over last year. When you compare this to the federal government's 2% increase for the Challenge program, it shows how substantial our commitment—this government's—is in dealing with this problem.

We have said consistently that we have voiced that jobs are a top priority of our government. What we are trying to do is to create partnerships forged between this government and the business community in order to get the young people of this province working. I believe the member for St Andrew-St Patrick deserves much credit for burning candles at both ends on this project. It is obvious that she cares deeply about youth employment and the direction we'd like to take with this government.

Work experience is a necessity for the youth of Ontario. It is the way to demonstrate to them that there are opportunities for them when they graduate and it shows that all of them should work hard. In order to ensure this job experience we have consulted with all sectors of Ontario's economy, from the private sector to the Ontario Federation of Labour and to the community agencies and all interested parties, in order to develop a program that would be widely supported and relevant to the young people of this province.

A key component of our initiatives is a new \$13.7-million program that will create 5,000 jobs in Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton and Windsor and will cover all sectors of the Ontario economy.

In closing, these initiatives are not Band-Aid solutions; they are something that the young people of Ontario can count on to help get jobs. The Premier has already indicated that this program will be evaluated in order to develop a long-range strategy to deal with youth employment. By doing this, we ensure that mechanisms are in place for job training and creation in the future.

Looking at what our government is doing to create employment opportunities for young people, I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that I will not be supporting the Liberal Party's purely partisan motion.

1710

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Further debate on the want of confidence motion by Mr Conway?

Mr Remo Mancini (Essex South): In the limited time available to me I wish at the outset to announce—and I know the government members will be surprised—that I intend to vote for the non-confidence motion put forward by my colleague, because if there is a government in Canada, in any province or in any of our territories or at the national level that deserves no confidence, it's the NDP socialist government of Ontario.

The previous spokesman for the NDP socialist government did a good job in reading the speech prepared for him by the NDP research office. He is a good, loyal trouper of the NDP socialist government. But I say to you, Mr Speaker, in these times of crisis, being a good, loyal trouper for your party may not be enough.

I want to bring to the members' attention—and to the attention of the other members from Windsor and Essex county, who may wish to participate here this afternoon—that there's another side of the story that you're not telling the Legislature and the people of this province, and with the little time that I have, I want to tell the members of the Legislature what's happening in Windsor and Essex county.

Let me start off with an industry in the private sector. H.J. Heinz, one of the largest employers in all of south-western Ontario, has in the past hired students for summer employment. As a matter of fact, last year it hired 28. This year, due to the economic downturn that has covered our province for the last two years, they will hire no students whatsoever—not a one.

In the public sector, last year Windsor Western Hospital Centre had 21 students; this year it will have 13. Grace Hospital in Windsor had jobs for 24 students last year; this year it will have none. Leamington District Memorial Hospital had positions for six students last year; this year it will have none.

The city of Windsor had applications last year totalling 2,380, and it was able to give 272 young people jobs. This year it has nearly 4,000 applications, almost double the total of last year, and still it will only be able to offer jobs to approximately 277 students.

So we can see by the actual numbers given to us by real institutions in our own community that students this year will have probably the most difficult time they've had in the last 10 or 12 years in obtaining summer employment. And what do we hear from the government? We hear from them that it's basically not their fault and it's another government's fault; and if it's not the other government's fault, well, then, it's the economy. The economy is not working well. Of course they take no responsibility for the length of this recession. No one has ever blamed the NDP for causing the recession, but it deserves a lot of the blame for the length of this recession, because it has damaged more so than probably any government in this century the confidence of the business community, here in Ontario and in Canada and internationally.

No matter how many trips Bob Rae makes to Japan, they will not only listen to his words while he's there but they will look to the actual actions and facts and what is happening here in this province before they and other international investors pour hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars into this province as they once did to allow our economy to grow and expand, to give jobs to people from all across this great province and especially to young people.

Oh, how the NDP members were concerned about youth unemployment when they were in opposition. Oh, how they professed to care about unemployed youth. Let me remind the House—since none of the NDP members wishes to remind the House what they stood for—of what they stood for a number of years ago.

I remember the present Treasurer, the finance minister of Ontario, saying when he was a member of the opposition:

"I find it ironic. We are debating something referred to as youth employment. One would think we would never

need to debate unemployment among our young people in this country. If any group of people should be automatically taken into the workforce, it should be the young people."

I want to say to the members of the NDP socialist government: Whatever happened to the words of your present finance minister? Why were his words important then and have no significance now? Can anyone over there answer that question? Is there any reason why his words were important then and they have no significance now?

Bob Rae said, "I suggest to you that the fight against youth unemployment is one part, a crucial part, a fight for full employment in our society."

When one looks at what's happening to our province today and with the way the NDP socialist government is managing our economic affairs, one would think that those words make a part of a sad joke. That's why we are voting non-confidence in the government today. That's why we are upset that members like the member for Windsor-Sandwich is not telling the whole story to this chamber, and that's why, more than ever, the NDP had better reassess the job that it's done, its present priorities and its way of handling the economic affairs of this government.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr David Winninger (London South): It certainly gives me great pleasure to rise and participate in the debate on the non-confidence motion of the member for Renfrew North.

The people in my riding, the youth in my riding don't blame our government for this recession, and they know it's the worst recession since the 1930s. What they do expect and what they are receiving is positive action on the part of this government to address their particular needs arising out of the slowdown in this economy.

I was pleased that my colleague the member for St Andrew-St Patrick referred to it with the metaphor of "opening doors." It's very important that we continue to maintain open doors for our young people, because they're looking to us today. They're looking to us today for a vision of what the future will hold for them, and jobs certainly are a key ingredient to that future, because jobs are a measure of their success in this community.

The summer employment strategy, put together under severe time constraints by the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, speaks to the strong commitment this government holds to the future of our young people and, more specifically, to ensuring access to training and jobs for minority groups.

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My colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale has spoken of our industrial strategy: the emphasis on jobs, on training, on investment in Ontario to strengthen our competitiveness and to promote investment in Ontario. I note with some satisfaction that Ontario continues to hold the majority of foreign investment in Canada compared to any other province. Certainly, in response to the comments made—the criticism of the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale—this government has spent 96% more than the Liberal government through the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. I think it's important to note that.

This industrial strategy is designed to promote the kind of well-paid, highly skilled jobs that our young people in Ontario are looking to this government to promote and to provide. Certainly our training strategy is second to none. Stephen Lewis, in his report tabled yesterday, underscored the importance of access to training and access to trades for members of our minorities. Certainly the member for St Andrew-St Patrick has opened the doors to that access to trades for our young people here in Ontario.

The Conference Board of Canada has noted that British Columbia will be the only province with a boom this year and that the average growth in the rest of Canada, including Ontario, will be approximately 1%, but it's a modest growth potential we can look forward to over the next six months. A stronger economy certainly bodes well for that vision I referred to earlier that our young people are looking to this government to provide.

We can't let our young people give up or turn their backs on the employment market, because experience has shown that the longer people are unemployed and out of the labour market, the more likely they are to remain unemployed. We need a broad social consensus of government, of labour and of business to bargain wages, to train workers including our young people, and to manage the economy to keep inflation and unemployment low.

As my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich has observed, our government has taken some very strong initiatives to create no less than 8,500 new summer jobs and to beef up our existing summer employment in the area of the summer Experience program and the Environmental Youth Corps.

I note, again with some satisfaction, that in 1991 Ontario's gross domestic product was higher than any other province and second highest of the G-7 nations, so we have the potential to say to our young people in Ontario that we have a strong potential to create jobs, to promote investment here in Ontario and to ensure that we can deliver on that vision that we're holding out to our young people.

I know I have other colleagues who are anxious to participate in this debate as well, so I would conclude by saying that I strongly oppose the contents of the want-of-confidence motion put forward by Mr Conway. Even though he's not here in body today, I hope he's having an opportunity to view these proceedings and to know the strong, positive initiatives this government has taken to address the concerns expressed in his want-of-confidence motion.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate?

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): It is a shame that the member for Renfrew North is not here. I personally look up to the member for Renfrew North and I was hoping he would be here because I'd like to share my thoughts with him. I'm sure he's listening or I'm sure he'll hear exactly what I have to say. I hold the ultimate respect for the member and I listen to everything he says. I want to let him know what this motion does to Yorkview.

I think the people in Yorkview are looking at this government for leadership, there's no question about it, espe-

cially in and around youth employment. I think they're actually saying to themselves: "What is this member talking about? What is the member for Renfrew North talking about with this motion?"

Finally we see a government that is slowly moving towards rectifying a lot of the problems that exist in Yorkview, and frankly I'm proud of that. Previous governments have neglected Yorkview. Previous governments have totally ignored the situation in Yorkview and frankly did not cater to any of the problems that existed in Yorkview. Finally we do have a government that is slowly moving in the directions we'd like to see it. Personally I'd like to see them move a little faster, no question about it, but in this area I cannot, for the life of me, talk negatively about the government and what it is doing in terms of youth employment.

I'd like to say to the member for Renfrew North that I would like him to come up to Yorkview and talk to the Marias and the Lucys and the Salvatores and the Carlos and the Franks and the Victors and all of the youth who live on Fennimore Crescent and Davelayne Road and Fountainhead Road, all of the youth who have come to my office and asked to be put on a list to take advantage of the Jobs Ontario program we have going. I'd like the people who are opposed to what we're doing and to all the jobs we are creating out of this to come up to Yorkview and talk to all of the people who live on the Sheppards and the Oakwoods and the San Romano Ways, the people who are going to be taking advantage of those programs. I'd like for that to happen, but I don't think it will; I really don't.

Jobs Ontario provides 5,000 jobs. In Metro, I am proud to be a part of this program. I'm proud to be a member who is going to try and get the youth in my riding active and try to get the youth in my riding to be a part of this program. There's no question about it; \$13.7 million the government has chosen to spend on this program and I'm proud of it; again, no question about it.

We can talk about other programs. There's no question. We can talk about summer Experience, the Environmental Youth Corps and northern Ontario training opportunities and how much money we've allocated for those programs as well. I can't understand why the opposition parties are being negative around this and I really can't understand why this motion exists, even though I'm glad it does because it gives us a chance to talk about it and it gives me a chance, as the member for Yorkview, to tell the people of Ontario and tell even my community that I'm proud of what we're doing and how many jobs we are creating and how much money we are spending as a government to create those jobs, the very crucial jobs that are needed in Yorkview.

I think it's important for me to talk a little about my history. I know the importance, there's no question about it, in terms of jobs when you are a youth. When I was going through school, I certainly worked my little behind off in the summer. I worked at places like Shopsy's and Holiday Inn and Darrigo supermarket. I worked there for a number of reasons. I worked because I had a car that I loved and I wanted to pay off, and I worked there because I helped out the family.

I can tell you that Yorkview is unique. Yorkview needs the jobs. The students need the jobs in Yorkview, because the students in Yorkview are somewhat different.

Mrs Caplan: The point is that other kids want those jobs.

Mr Mammoliti: We're not as well off as the member for Oriole's constituents might be. We're not as well off as the member for Etobicoke West's constituents might be. We need the youth jobs to help out our families. I really believe that the things we are doing are helping out the youth in Yorkview, something that other governments have not done. Your track records have been terrible in my riding. Finally we have a government that's doing something.

In closing, I'd like to talk again a little bit about Jobs Ontario and the companies sharing in that partnership. I'd like to congratulate the University of Toronto, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Royal Trust. I'd like to even thank the Toronto Star. I'd like to thank Eaton's and Xerox and Sun Life, York University, Hudson's Bay.

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But let me tell you something: As much as I sit here and say to those companies, "Thank you very much for the efforts and everything you're putting in for Yorkview," I will say to the hundreds of thousands of other companies out there that aren't pulling their fair weight and their share in this province, "Help out the youth." That's something we have to recognize.

In closing again, at the same time I wish to say that I don't see the unions here. Unions are employers. Frankly, I'd like to have a discussion with some of the unions out there because I'd like to see them more active in this sort of thing as well. On one hand we talk about the companies; on the other hand we talk about the unions. I'll be the first one to say that I should have a talk with them.

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I think this was very important for Yorkview. I hope and I wish that the oppositions, both of them, will realize what Yorkview is actually going through.

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): I'm pleased to get a chance to say something in this debate, partly because in reading the first part of the confidence motion I find that Mr Conway speaks about the student unemployment rate. "The number of unemployed students between the ages of 15 and 24" he says, "has gone from 11.1% in September 1990 to 18% in April 1992."

He doesn't say, which is usual, where he gets that figure. If you look at the Statistics Canada figures for April 1992, which is the same month he's using, we find for Ontario a combined rate of 14.5% unemployed for full-time students between the ages of 15 and 24, the exact same category Mr Conway appears to be referring to. No one would argue that 14.5% is not a rate to be concerned about—certainly our government is concerned about it—but to call it 18% I think is a very unfair way of going about it.

As the speakers before me have suggested we have done a lot about, or are taking very serious steps about addressing, this problem of student unemployment rates.

The member for St Andrew-St Patrick has very graphically and movingly said why these things have to be done.

If you look at the students who are cut out of the labour market, I think you will find that they are from certain segments of the community. I think this speaks very clearly to why we have to make changes to the Labour Relations Act to make sure working people in particular have the voice to say what we should be doing with our resources in our communities.

Again I want to say I think the non-confidence motion got off to a bad start by using a figure that is inaccurate. If we look at the figures we will recognize what the rate is, that it's too high, but we are taking very serious steps by putting in a total of \$45.7 million, which is an increase of 73.4% over last year's amount, and the Ontario's 1992 summer employment programs are providing almost 50% more jobs than last year. As I say, if you look at the figures, they are serious, but not as serious as the opposition member suggests they are, and our government is taking steps to make sure that the unemployment rate is brought down.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I'm pleased to join the debate and I would say to the government that you should be ashamed of your record on youth unemployment. If you look at the speech from the throne and the budget, there is not one single mention of youth unemployment in either the speech from the throne, when you purport to be so concerned about youth unemployment, or the budget. It took that event on May 4 to finally get you to do something.

I have been begging the government to get on with youth unemployment and many of the members might recall some of the statements I've been making in the Legislature, and I'm not alone in this. I go back to April 11, 1991, more than a year ago. I'm begging the government to get on and do something about youth unemployment. I said there, "A particular aspect that worries me...is youth unemployment"—I talked about these—"there are some extremely troublesome numbers around youth unemployment...if we look at the young people, I am particularly troubled...and I would say to all of us that if the number is bad now, as the summer comes to us I think we are going to see very significant" increases in those numbers.

I hope the government comes forward with programs for these young people. As we all wrestle with this issue, let's look behind some of these numbers and appreciate that we cannot let a generation of young people be lost during these challenging times. I couldn't get the government to do a thing about it. It wasn't in the speech from the throne and it wasn't in the budget.

I made another statement in the House, and I'm not alone in this. I said, "I rise to remind the House"—this was on April 29, 1991—"of an issue which impacts each of us." I went on to say that the unemployment rate now among young people is over 25%. "Our young people are not a well-organized political force." I said that in the Legislature and I believe that.

They're "not a well-organized political force"—and they're not going to—"arrive on our front doorstep quickly, but none the less, they are an extremely important group. Our challenge, and I might say particularly the

government's challenge, is to ensure that this generation of young people will not be forced to pay an unfair price for the mistakes of our older generations." That was a year ago.

Then another statement of many of these statements in the Legislature, and this is an ironic date. This was on May 4, 1992 when again I went through the budget and the speech from the throne. I was begging the government to get on and do something about youth unemployment. There wasn't a thing in the budget; there wasn't a thing in the speech from the throne. That was May 4 and all of us will remember what happened the night of May 4 on Yonge Street.

What I said that afternoon in the Legislature—I was talking to the Treasurer about jobs and saying I'm very disappointed in the budget that we once again ignored the young people. I said: "The unemployment rate among young people, our 15- to 24-year age group, is closer to 25%; extremely serious numbers. Certainly as we head into the summer, the time when an awful lot of young people are leaving school, graduating from university, graduating from colleges, that number is going to rise."

I've spoken in this House many times and it is a primary concern of mine. I urged the government to get on with the youth unemployment, so I object strongly to government members saying it was part of their plan. It wasn't. We in the opposition begged you for a year and a half to get on and do something about youth unemployment and you did nothing.

Interjections.

Mr Phillips: Several of the members are objecting. What happened under previous governments? I will tell you that. Where do the numbers come from? They come from the Ministry of Labour report. Where does the 18% unemployment come from? It comes from the Ministry of Labour quarterly report. Where does it come from? It comes from a special study on summer unemployment. And what does it say in there? It says that youth this year will have fewer job opportunities and can expect to face intense competition during this summer.

It goes on to point out that the youth unemployment rate during the previous years, 7%, 8%, 9%, is substantially lower. So what was happening during the previous government? The unemployment rate was very low during the summer for unemployed youth. Why was that? It was because the economy was substantially stronger. What was happening before? The government was looking after the youth unemployed. What's happening now? You're not looking after them, and it took that event on May 4, though the opposition had been begging for action, to finally force some action out of the government.

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I will say that Jobs Ontario, which flowed from the action on May 4, creates 8,500 summer jobs. We recognize that. What is that? What will that mean for the young people of the province? It will mean that 1% more youth will be working this summer. That's important. It will mean the unemployment rate will drop by 1% for the young people of this province, but it will mean that we will

still see a record number of unemployed young people in this province this summer. We will see 17% unemployment and we will continue to see the problems.

I will digress slightly to say that the one aspect that I personally recognize is that our black youth do face a unique and, I think, significant problem. I would just say the test often is that unfortunately—but it's reality—our young black people have a tougher row to hoe than our young white people. There is no doubt about that. It's just reality. Whether it be in the job market, in the education market or in dealing with the justice system, they do have a tougher row to hoe. We need to make sure that we put in place a special effort to reach out to them.

Having said that, I will go back to my theme, and that is that this is a government that talks a lot and does very little. Frankly, it's a government that talks about doing something for the unemployed youth. In the two documents the speech from the throne and the budget, there wasn't one single mention of it. It took that event on May 4 to finally get them in action. As I said before, you can go through the Hansards. We have been begging the government to get on with youth unemployment and to deal with this most significant issue.

What's required is a comprehensive plan. The Treasurer and others have acknowledged that the government cannot create all the jobs. We must create an atmosphere where jobs are created in the private sector. I say to the government that in that area your plans are falling apart. I say that with all sincerity. It is true of the plans you have in place, the plans the Premier announced. There were five parts to them. There was the Ontario investment fund, the worker ownership bill, the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendment and the industrial strategy. All five of those things are collapsing.

The minister promised us that we would have legislation on OTAB. He promised that we would have legislation this spring. Hopefully it will arrive tomorrow, because tomorrow is the last day. Where is that all-important legislation for getting on with OTAB?

What's happened with the worker ownership bill that was designed by the Premier to get the economy rolling? The unions, which are the only group in the bill that can run the venture capital funds, have said they don't want to participate in it. That one is falling apart on you.

The Ontario investment fund, which is the use of public sector pensions, is falling apart on the government.

We have three of the cornerstones of their industrial plans falling apart on them.

The industrial strategy that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology has been promising us is nowhere to be seen.

We're left with one element of the whole economic recovery plan that the Premier announced—that is, the Ontario Labour Relations Act amendments. That's the only part of the economic recovery plan we still have before us. What's happening with that? It is turning into one of the most divisive fights imaginable between the two workplace parties.

As we look at dealing with youth unemployment, I will say this to the government: You didn't have in your speech from the throne, you didn't have in your budget any plans for dealing with youth unemployment. I think the people of the province are beginning to see this as a government of all talk and no action. The opposition has been arguing and begging the government to get on with youth employment. As I said before, it was only after we saw a significant event that we finally got some action out of the government.

The Minister of Transportation would say, "We're in the works anyway." I don't believe so. It was the Premier himself who went the next day and appointed the member for St Andrew-St Patrick to get on with the job. On May 4 we said to the Treasurer in the Legislature that afternoon, "Where are the job creation programs for the youth?" We asked that question that afternoon, May 4, in the Legislature, and there was no answer. There was nothing in the budget. It was only as a result of that action that we finally saw something happen from this government. So I resent their getting up and talking about their caring about youth employment, their caring about all the young people in this province, and their actions belying it. There is nothing in their budget, in their speech from the throne, that deals with it.

In terms of our young people and how they are going to be able to look forward to the future, I will say this: The economic recovery plan that the Premier promised is in tatters. We won't see some of the major elements of it until the fall now, I gather; some we won't debate until the fall now, I gather.

If you take the worker ownership, the venture capital part of it, the OFL, the organization that is designed to run it—the unions are the only ones that can run the venture capital programs; they've said they don't want to participate in it. It's in tatters.

The Ontario investment fund, the use of the public sector pensions: As I said before, we are now hearing that it isn't going to work.

So we find that the Jobs Ontario—there are 8,500 jobs in there; we accept that. We accept that now what that will mean is, instead of perhaps 18% unemployment with the young people, it will be 17%, well above what we've seen for a decade. We accept the 8,500 jobs, although it took an incident, the opposition—I think sometimes the people at home wonder why the opposition gets angry. The opposition gets angry because we try to be helpful. We make speeches in the Legislature. We ask the government to get on with something, and it doesn't. It takes an outside piece of action to finally force the government to act.

This is a matter of urgency for us. The step that has been taken is not insignificant. It's 1%, but it's not getting at the root cause, the root challenges. Every second day in this province a plant closes. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology comes into the House and he heckles, but every second day somewhere in this province a plant is closing, so it is time the government took some real action on youth unemployment.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The time allotted for debate on this motion has expired.

Mr Beer, in the absence of Mr Conway, moves want of confidence motion 1. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Call in the members. There's a five-minute bell.

1755

The House divided on Mr Conway's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes—34

Arnott, Beer, Bradley, Brown, Caplan, Chiarelli, Cleary, Eddy, Elston, Eves, Grandmaitre, Jackson, Kwinter, Mahoney, Mancini, McClelland, McGuinty, McLeod, Morin, Murdoch (Grey), Offer, Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poirier, Poole, Ramsay, Runciman, Ruprecht, Scott, Sorbara, Stockwell, Sullivan, Tilson, Turnbull, Villeneuve.

Nays—59

Akande, Allen, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Copen, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Ferguson, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harrington, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Johnson, Klopp, Kormos, Lessard, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Martin, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury);

North, O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rizzo, Silipo, Sutherland, Ward (Brantford), Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Winniger, Wiseman, Wood, Ziemba.

The Speaker: The ayes being 34 and the nays 59, I declare the motion lost. That, coupled with it being 6 of the clock, means that we meet tomorrow morning at 10 of the clock. This House stands adjourned until that time.

The House adjourned at 1800.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
33	1218	1	7	pick a site known as P1 to accommodate Metro's garbage.
33	1219	1	52	Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): In this lighter mo-

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
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London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
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Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
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Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
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Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
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Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
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St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
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Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 11 June 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 11 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 11 June 1992

The House met at 1001.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

ROLE OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

Mr Drainville moved resolution 10:

That in the opinion of this House, the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly should be authorized to review and report to the House on recommended changes to the standing orders to allow independent members of the assembly the right to more fully participate in the work of the assembly.

In particular, the committee should review:

—Clause 30(b) of the standing orders to give independent members the collective right to make one statement every two weeks during the period for members' statements.

—Clauses 32(b) and (d) of the standing orders to give independent members the collective right to ask one question and one supplementary question every two weeks during the oral question period.

—Section 69 to continue to give a member who is not of a recognized party in the Legislative Assembly the right to make one speech at second and third readings of every government bill.

—Clause 108(a) of the standing orders to give an independent member the right to sit as a member of the standing committee of his or her choice.

—Clause 108(a) of the standing orders to give the government of a majority Parliament the right to appoint an extra member to a standing committee that has an independent member sitting as a member of the committee.

—Section 124 of the standing orders to give an independent member the right to take part in public proceedings of any standing or select committee of which he or she is not a member, with the right to ask questions of witnesses and the right to receive all documents and exhibits, but with no right to vote on the committee.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Mr Drainville moves private member's notice of motion 10. Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the honourable member has 10 minutes for his presentation.

Mr Dennis Drainville (Victoria-Haliburton): As I begin to discuss in this short period of time that I have the resolution we have before us, I want to give the context in which it was prepared.

I remember sitting in this House in the late 1960s and the early 1970s, the years of Nixon and Lewis and Davis, the years when there was much debate in the House, and in those days, I was very interested in the standing orders. I was a teenager and Parliament interested me. It interested me because in a sense I felt a great affinity always with the theory that here in this place we had opportunities to bring forth the best that we could bring for the people of this

province, that we could discuss at length the things that were important for the people and that we would have an opportunity to serve the people of Ontario and to give voice, if you will, to the needs and aspirations of all people in our society. So it was that I got those first glimmers of interest of being in this place and of participating with these standing orders.

I've got to say that at its best this Parliament is a place where the people's needs and aspirations are expressed, and at its best there are people, members, who come to this House from whatever political persuasion and they are people who are deeply committed to a vision of what this society might be. But at its worst, this House becomes a place where there is discord and at times even animosity and distrust, a place where sometimes the standing orders do not readily facilitate adequate debate, and it seems at times that the will and the needs of the people are lost in that difficulty.

So it is that I come here to speak about this resolution within the context of parliamentary reform. I cannot do that without saying two things.

First of all, in terms of those who think there is not interest in this province in parliamentary reform, they are wrong. They think that these rule changes that we make in this House are rule changes that are ignored. Well, they are not ignored. There are people in my riding who have written to me about the need to change the way we do public business.

We have a group in my riding of Victoria-Haliburton called the Citizens' Open Circle which has a project called the Assembly of Electors, where it is responding to the questions and concerns of citizens throughout our riding and saying that Parliament, either the House of Commons or this place, does not any more represent the kinds of things that we believe are important: accessibility to government, being able to ensure that the things that are on the agenda of the people are somehow found on the agenda of the Legislature and that the public business that goes on is done in a way which is able to ensure that timeliness is taken into consideration, that the issues raised are issues that certainly represent their views and that the members themselves have an opportunity to educate and to speak out on the issues of the day both in a way that is going to be edifying and in a way that is going to bring consensus, not constant division and opposition. So it is that there are people who are watching today and there are people in my riding who are very concerned about the fact that Parliament does not function the way it should.

I can't give up this opportunity without making a couple of comments about parliamentary reform and the changes that have been brought forward by the government in the last few days. I must say there is no question in my mind that there is some need for change in the way we do our business, that some of the government's initiatives to change the standing orders are very much needed.

Yet I've got to say—and I speak from great disappointment in my own government when I say this—that it seems to me the broader needs of parliamentary reform go far beyond the needs of a government to have its legislation passed through the House. Rather, fundamentally, parliamentary reform has to do with the relationships we build within this place for the betterment of our society so that we can do the best that we can do for the people of this province. I'm afraid that as I look at these changes that have been brought forward by the government, they will be helpful in the passage of government business, but they will not necessarily be helpful in building this as a better institution for the people of this province.

Let me say also that issues such as party discipline—I've spoken with members of my own side on this issue, and I've got to say that in the corridors of power around this place, there's not a great deal of interest in looking at party discipline and that doctrine, and how we have such an extreme form of that doctrine here in this country and in this province. There's no interest in trying to change that kind of thing, and I ask why.

It is because every party, regardless of what side of the House it is on, when it gets into the position of government, is unwilling to change the status quo. They are unwilling to change the status quo because, as we all know, power is something which, when you have it, you don't give away. And so it is that my government, I lament to say, in that respect is no different from the Conservatives or the Liberals, and I can't say that with any pleasure.

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When I wrote my paper on parliamentary reform and did all the research for that, I saw in Aristotle a quote which was in the document which I'm going to quote into the record today. It captures some of the spirit that is important to me in putting forth this resolution today. Aristotle wrote in his *Politics*:

"If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

We find ourselves at a time and a place in which the people do not feel that they have access to government; at a time and a place when the parliamentary reform of democracy has changed substantially from the theory of Parliament into a situation in which a few people control in every province—this is not just true of Ontario, but true of every province in the federal system—a very few people control what is done and what is said and how things go and the direction that it goes, and in fact the legislatures and the parliaments of Canada have very little real say in the future of this province and of this country.

I want to say that not only is this wrong, but it defeats and destroys the whole theory of Parliament when we, as members, don't have the opportunity to be able at times to dissent and to argue vociferously on issues that may not be to the best advantage, in our own opinion, of our ridings or of our people.

So it is that we come to this point where I put forth this resolution. Let me say at the outset that one would think that in such a resolution, which has to do with the rights of individuals who are elected by their people to sit in this

House and to give voice to their concerns and their questions and to give forth their vision of what this province might be, there would be nothing but agreement that independent members, if there are any in the House, should have the same rights as members who are aligned with the party. You would think that it would be given assent, and yet there those, not the least of whom are members of the government, who say: "No, we don't need to change the rules. We don't need to do anything more. We don't want to give independent members any more power."

There is a principle at stake here, and the principle is that if the people of whatever riding choose a member, that member deserves the honour, the respect and the dignity of having the right to stand in his place and to give voice to the needs and aspirations of his people. If we do not change these standing orders and reflect that, if we're not willing to be courageous enough to help independent members to be full members of this assembly, then we are perpetuating a fraud in the understanding that the people of Ontario deserve to have their voices heard here. I believe we have an opportunity to say clearly to the province, to the government of Ontario, that every member in this House deserves to have the right to speak, to stand up, to be heard.

Now, if we pass this resolution, who knows if anything will be done? Perhaps nothing. But I must say the principle is worth fighting for. The principle is worth enunciating in this House and throughout the province that independent members are equal members and that those whom the people elect are the representatives of the people and deserve their rights.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): In the brief seven and a half minutes that I have, since I'm reserving time for my colleague the member for St Catharines, it's very difficult to speak on an issue of this magnitude.

Let me say I commend the member for bringing forward his resolution. I was a bit troubled by the fact that it dealt only with independent members. Without being political, I suspect that when he brought it to his caucus, they perhaps did not want him to address the real issue, and the real issue he has addressed quite well, I think.

The people of Ontario have to understand one thing. They go out and vote, and perhaps work for a candidate, get him or her elected, and anticipate that person will come to this chamber or to the Parliament of Canada and do great things, particularly things that are central to their riding and their concerns. I think the thing people have to understand is that the present parliamentary system, without reform, in fact blocks that.

Particularly when you are on the government side, as the member for Victoria-Haliburton has so wisely put it, you have all these threats of perks being taken away, such as committee chairmanships and parliamentary assistant jobs, which carry extra money. You have the possibility of not getting into cabinet; that's always a threat.

In view of that, the members of the government, particularly in a majority Parliament, tend to vote as though they're affixed at the hip. I'm sure the people out there who elected them and worked for them have to recognize

that they don't support every piece of legislation that's put forward in this House.

In the brief time I have, the people of Ontario should understand as well that this place, and the policies and decisions here, really are made on the basis of what is politically sexy, not what is important for the people of Ontario but what is politically sexy.

That decision is made—and it's not one party that necessarily carries that ball—on the basis of the Premier, or in Ottawa the Prime Minister, maybe three or four inner circle cabinet ministers and about six to 10 unelected people who come up with these ideas and bring them to the Legislature. Of course everyone over there, despite the debate that takes place in this House—the people watching it on television must sometimes wonder to themselves when they see the government voting, again, as if they're joined to the hip. They have to say to themselves, "I elected that person to represent me and he is not in fact representing me."

I suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that unless that is changed, unless that fundamental principle is changed, you're going to see people get more apathetic about this entire process in the Legislature of Ontario and the Parliament of Canada. I think in the last election much of what the people told us was that they were fed up with taxes, but more important, what they were fed up with was the fact that having to pay these taxes, they weren't seeing any great return for them because the legislation that was being proposed was not necessarily what they thought was important.

For instance, right now we're discussing changes to the rules of the House when we should be discussing the questions of youth unemployment and adult unemployment. We should be discussing things such as one in 50 kids on the streets in Toronto being afflicted with AIDS. We should be talking about a whole host of very important issues, rather than the issues that are raised in this House.

Our leader, Lyn McLeod, was elected, and it was in the campaign of all the people aspiring to leadership, on the basis that should we form the government, there would be effective changes in this House, effective changes in the participation by all members of the Legislature. Each and every one of us has something to share. Each and every one of us comes to this Legislature with grey matter that is untapped if you sit there and vote at the hip, if the situation continues as it is. Each and every one of us has a specific type of understanding of our own specific riding and its needs, and we have a duty and a responsibility. The opening prayer says, "Let us aspire to decisions that are just." But we're not doing that. You're not doing that.

The question of an independent member having the powers that were suggested by the member—as I said, I think the reason he brought that forward in the way he did was because he was somewhat muzzled. I say that with respect. In fact I'll be surprised when the vote comes if his government colleagues don't let him down and vote against him. One of the things Bob Nixon in our caucus said, and Lyn McLeod as well has said, has been that this is private members' hour and you vote the way you want to vote; you don't vote the party line.

I suggest that's a very healthy approach and one that should be continued and perhaps expanded upon in this

Legislature. There's no question in my mind that if we do that, if we bring those forward, we could eliminate the necessity of having to limit debate, as is the proposal by the present government.

The government wants to limit debate for members. I suggest that's not necessary. The acrimony in the House is a direct result, I suggest, of the frustrations, particularly of the government members, sitting over there on the benches and having to go home and tell the members of their ridings that they just voted for something that's totally against the interests of their ridings and having to explain why they did it.

I was in Barrie discussing the Ontario labour relations amendments and was told that the NDP government member there told the business leaders: "Forget about it. We're not going to discuss the question of this legislation. It's a done deal." Well, I think that's absolutely outrageous. That means the member is saying there's no possibility of any changes being made as a result of debate.

1020

If that's democracy, then I can sell you some swamp land in Florida. It's not democracy and I think people expect us to be democratic here. They expect us to represent our ridings. There is no problem in terms of being able to vote your conscience or vote what the people in your riding expect you to vote, because in the House of Commons there were 82 resolutions upon which the government of the day was defeated and the government didn't come tumbling down and result in an election.

If you go to Westminster, which is really the seat of our Parliament, the questions asked by the government members are sometimes more stinging and significant than those asked by the opposition. Yet here we see questions being asked during question period that really are nothing more than asking the minister to tell us about a particular policy. I suggest that's not effective questioning.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Two weeks' notice.

Mr Callahan: Well, you raise that issue, but I suggest to you—and I don't have much more time left—that you can say what you like about that but in fact, when you leave this place, if you're satisfied that you have effectively represented the constituents of your riding under a reformed Parliament and you're not afraid of losing a perk here or there, then you can walk away with your head held high. If you can't do that, then I suggest all you've done is occupy a seat with a join at the hip.

It's interesting, finally, that in the United States there are, I believe, 70 congressmen who are not running for re-election, so the situation is not just unique to us; it's in the United States as well. People who came to the Legislature or the Congress and believed they could set the world on fire found that under the present systems, we really don't have the opportunity to do that.

It has been a pleasure to participate and I'd like to reserve the balance of our time for my friend from St Catharines.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I'm very pleased to rise and speak on this today. I specifically asked in my caucus that I get this opportunity to speak to it. I'm pleased to support the member for Victoria-Haliburton in his motion

today. It is indeed appropriate that we look at the way we conduct Parliament. I suspect that perhaps he is considering bolting the NDP caucus and I wouldn't blame him.

Let me speak specifically to some of the changes he is proposing. I suggest that the right of an independent member to make a statement every two weeks—and we're not allowed to amend these motions, of course, so I will vote for it—is too much, because it can give an independent a disproportionate amount of statements. The same would hold true for oral questions. There are many members of both the government benches and the opposition benches who can't get on every two weeks. But it is appropriate that we give these members the right to clearly have their voice heard because ultimately, whether they are elected as an independent or subsequently become an independent, it's appropriate that they be able to reflect their constituent's concerns, which this motion would certainly help.

Quite clearly, it is appropriate that we continue to allow those independents to make a speech at second and third reading of any bills and the idea of them being able to sit on a standing committee of their choice is appropriate.

These are good measures, but we must look at them also in the context of what the government House leader has brought in this week: changes to the House rules. I am deeply offended by the manner in which these House rule changes have been brought in. It is true that House rules have been brought in by both the Conservatives and the Liberals over the years. However, the method by which these were brought in is absolutely unprecedented. They were brought in as an edict. We were told we were going to have to sit on these until we pass the House rules and they know that they have enough votes to barge this through.

When the Liberals brought in the last House rules, they were tabled by the government House leader at that time, Sean Conway, the member for Renfrew North. But he tabled them and then left them open to a discussion panel of all parties. The method in which the NDP is going ahead is: "There is no debate. We're simply going to have our way." It is inappropriate, and I would suggest that in all probability the reason the House rules are at the top of the agenda for the government at the moment is because it wants to muzzle one of its own dissenting members, namely, Peter Kormos, the member for Welland-Thorold, who famously spoke for 17 hours in this House and was applauded by the now Premier for his effort in fighting what he considered to be wrongheaded legislation. Whether it was or not is beside the point; he was expressing something which he deeply felt.

Before we're allowed to debate Sunday shopping, which he also has strong views on, the House is going to have him muzzled so that he will only be able to speak for half an hour. This is one of the most undemocratic governments that we have ever seen, a government which is determined to muzzle its own members.

I'd like to put on the record that before I agreed to run for the Conservative Party in the last election I came and spoke to my leader, Mike Harris. I had never met him before and I asked him about this question of party discipline. He assured me he was convinced that in Canada generally, and in Ontario too, there was entirely too much whipping

of members. He said he does not believe in it and indeed he committed at that time, and has been consistent ever since I've been here, to our not being obliged to vote the way of our party.

It happens that we have a very unified party.

Mr Mills: It's easy when you're the third party.

Mr Turnbull: It seems that one of the NDP members, the member for Durham East, would like to muzzle this comment. But indeed, our leader has never told us we must vote in a certain way. To my knowledge, we are the only party that is allowed, on every single vote, to vote the way of our conscience. That is something we can be proud of. I know that my leader has mentioned it in this House on many occasions, and we gets hoots and hollers from the NDP over this. But the truth is there. We have never been whipped, since I have been in this House, to vote in a certain way.

It is depressing to speak to the members of the NDP and see what their personal views are. They don't like things that the government is pushing through and then they vote like sheep. Indeed we need to have rule changes, but we also need to have a change in the philosophy of all parties.

Our party has led the way and has said it is important that members express the views of their constituents. As we move towards debate of Sunday shopping, you will see that within our party we hold different views and that they will be expressed and voted on according to the conscience of the people who populate our party.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): Same thing over here. It's no different on this side.

Mr Turnbull: I'm pleased that the member for Welland-Thorold says it's no different on their side. Well, we have seen no consistency between the rhetoric we hear officially and the way they vote as compared with the private conversations we have with them, where they are deeply troubled by what they're doing.

I think this legislation that we're seeing with respect to House rules is directly aimed at the member for Welland-Thorold, and I suspect at the member for Victoria-Haliburton.

1030

I am indeed pleased to vote in favour of this motion today, but it really isn't going far enough. We need to revolutionize the way this House works because we must ensure that our constituents are heard, not some old boys' club that comes here and then gets very cosy over a glass of Scotch and decides how it is going to vote. It's got to be the way the people who elect us want us to vote, and where we disagree with the people who elect us and we vote our conscience, then that's fine because we take the ultimate sanction. If the people do not like what we've done, they can vote against us at the next election. That is the way it should be.

I am very pleased to support this motion. I suspect we are going to see the changes in House rules shoved down our throat. We're going to go back to night sittings with all they meant. We know that much-vaunted old NDP war-horse Elie Martel indeed fell down drunk in this chamber

and had to be assisted up by the Premier in night sittings. That is well known and was one of the reasons they moved away from night sittings. It is indeed disgusting that this party should be suggesting that we should be going back to night sittings, particularly night sittings which can be called at—

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your seat. Point of order, the member for Durham Centre.

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Mr Speaker, I realize that the member to whom he was referring to is no longer in this chamber, but surely his privileges and rights are being infringed upon by these kinds of derogatory and unnecessary insults.

Mr Kormos: It was untrue.

Mr White: Not only untrue, but not even original. The member for Renfrew North has already made the same slanderous allegations.

The Deputy Speaker: The member who was referred to is not a member of this House, but—

Mr White: He was.

The Deputy Speaker: Let me finish, please. I agree that if we were moderate in our debates, we would prevent this type of animosity. So I ask you to be careful, please.

Mr Turnbull: I will remind you that the member for Renfrew North mentioned this event in his lengthy debate of the House rule changes on Monday of this week. Indeed we didn't see any of the NDP members jumping up on foolish points of order at that time, because he was here and observed it with his own eyes. It is a story which has gone around this Legislature many times. I have heard it many times.

It is inappropriate that we should be moving in the wrong direction. We've got to make sure that we're expressing the will of our people, not in some drunken stupor. We should indeed be able to plan our lives so that we can spend time with our constituents and not have night sittings possibly pulled at the whim of this government on two weeks' notice.

I know this doesn't sit very well with the government, but it is the truth. You know very well it is the truth. Check with your members who were here and they will tell you this is the truth.

I do wish to leave some time on the clock for my colleague the member for Simcoe West.

Mr Tony Rizzo (Oakwood): I would like to begin by saying that I agree fully in principle with the submission of parliamentary reforms in Ontario as put forth by the member for Victoria-Haliburton.

As already pointed out, significant discrepancies exist in the present standing orders between independent and recognized party members. Despite the fact that all members are equally elected, independent members are denied the full extent of rights and privileges granted to caucus members simply because they do not hold enough seats in the Legislature to constitute a recognized party. This is a reality that independent members must continually confront. As the member for Victoria-Haliburton stated, it is

ultimately the people of Ontario who suffer from not having effective representation.

In light of the fact that new parties may be entering the political arena and citizens' anger against traditional party politics is increasing, the prospect of more independent members in this House is real and probably not too distant in the future. Subsequently, the status of independent members must be amended in order to avoid any further problems on a larger scale.

Rest assured that I do not advocate a greater freedom away from party rules for caucus MPPs, for I do acknowledge the importance of party discipline in providing coherence to the work being done in the House. But as committed as I am to the value of party discipline, I do not believe it is fair that standing orders should be used to uphold party discipline.

Why does an MPP have to be part of a recognized party to be able to fulfil her or his duties? A line must be drawn between the rules of the House, which should place all members on equal ground, and party discipline, which should be distinct from parliamentary rules. A more equitable distribution of rights is needed if independent members are to be able to effectively represent their constituents, and it will be up to the Clerk's office to find the best way to realize this objective. Once this has been determined, the Clerk's office should be called before the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to discuss these proposed changes.

Changing the status of independents in the Legislature must remain an issue of priority and the proposed amendments brought forth today are a step in the right direction. If not for my recent predicament, I probably would have never realized how unjust the present situation is, but having experienced this situation at first hand, I understand the great difficulties and frustrations an independent member of this Legislature encounters.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the present situation only serves to silence the voices of thousands of citizens who choose to exercise their right to vote. If we do not make the necessary changes, these voices will remain silent. The bottom line is that the people of Ontario have the right to be effectively represented and if they choose to be represented by someone who does not belong to a recognized party, there is no reason to deny them a full and equal voice.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I had hoped to have the opportunity this morning to speak favourably of this particular resolution because I think a lot of time, effort and energy have gone into it and some good thought has gone into some potential changes to the way the Legislature operates, in other words, to our procedures. I want to commend the member for Victoria-Haliburton for initiating this particular activity.

What is most unfortunate, of course, is that it's in the midst of the atmosphere of the government of which he is part wanting to change the rules unilaterally in this House and make rather substantial changes that would limit not only the powers of members of the opposition, and that's important in a democracy, but also the influence of members who are not part of the cabinet and the government.

I find it passing strange that the New Democratic Party, which has always, at least in terms of its rhetoric and I think for most members, sincerely stood for democracy and the rights of the opposition, the NDP and its predecessor the CCF having been in opposition in Ontario until the 1990 election, and in opposition in many other forums across Canada—I would have expected, and that's why I commend the member for Victoria-Haliburton, that the kind of changes that might have been forthcoming from the government would have been those initiated by him, as opposed to those which have been announced by the member for Windsor-Riverside, the House leader of the government.

1040

I think a number of the members were intrigued by some of the suggestions made by the member for Victoria-Haliburton and probably supportive of many of the suggestions. What has poisoned the atmosphere, however, has been not only the content of the government resolution to change the rules of the Ontario Legislature but also the manner in which that resolution was introduced to this House.

As I've looked over the years at the NDP caucus when it sat in opposition, there have been some people who have been, I think, highly respected in this Legislature. I think of Jim Renwick—he used to sit for Riverdale—who always commanded the attention of members of this House. I think of Patrick Lawlor, who sat in this Legislature and was a person who could wax eloquent and of course defend the rights of the opposition and of democracy in this province. I think of Stephen Lewis, who sat in this Legislature, made many a compelling speech, shared his views with the members and always defended the underdog, always defended the rights of those in opposition, who do not have all of the forces, who do not have all of the money, who do not have all of the levers of power that exist with members of the government.

So it's disappointing that when the member for Victoria-Haliburton has taken the time to think carefully about the rules of this Legislature, to think carefully about the role that individual members can play in this Legislature, that the government House leader would turn around and bring in a motion of the kind which has poisoned the atmosphere in here, and it has probably damaged the chance of the kind of ecumenical support I think the member for Victoria-Haliburton would have had, had this not happened.

I am concerned that in the package which exists—and I'm sure the member for Victoria-Haliburton would not have contemplated this—the government in fact wants to sit fewer days. There's a very good reason for that: they don't like question period. Nobody who sits in government as a minister likes question period, because you are accountable, because you must be prepared to answer questions not only from those who are in opposition but good questions from time to time from your own members who are concerned about matters in their own constituencies. The limiting of the amount of time the House sits in terms of question period, I think, diminishes the rights of the opposition and the backbench members of the government.

In addition to this, I'm extremely concerned at the limitation to be placed on speeches. I happen to consider that some of the manoeuvres that are used by oppositions over

the years, the bell-ringing and other manoeuvres which are simply time-wasters, are not justified, but I do believe lengthy speeches to draw to the attention of the public the concerns about bills are.

The member offers a number of, I think, good suggestions on what can be done to assist in this Legislature. Wanting to enhance the rights of individual members is important. He has identified what I believe many people are seeing today, and that is that the general public views legislators as not being particularly important in the scheme of things.

It's not a matter of ego, but it's a matter of the fact that they elect someone to represent them in a Legislature such as this or in the House of Commons in Ottawa and then find that he must adhere to party policy on all occasions, that he is simply called upon to vote when the government needs his vote and then when opposition parties need his vote, but his powers to influence government policy are extremely limited.

The suggestions which have been made by the member for Victoria-Haliburton offer an opportunity for members to play a more meaningful role. There are people who come from various backgrounds in this Legislature. Some have been here a short period of time, some a lengthy period of time. If you look at the economic backgrounds, the social backgrounds, the ethnic backgrounds, whatever you want, we have a pretty good cross-section of Ontario here. Unfortunately, the government benches where the ministers sit really is where the power resides, and of course with the civil service and the advisers to the Premier's office, the Premier's office has been all-powerful in virtually every government there has been in the province of Ontario.

I hope the member is not discouraged by the fact that there isn't the kind of enthusiasm expressed openly for his resolution that there might have been on this day. I think it merits a lot of support, but the government House leader has torpedoed his efforts to be ecumenical today.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I want to begin by commending the member for Victoria-Haliburton for bringing forward this resolution this morning. I think it's quite timely, given that the government House leader, Mr Dave Cooke, has tabled rule changes in this Legislature.

I want to take the three minutes I have to first of all tell the member for Victoria-Haliburton that I was unaware that independent members did not enjoy many of the same privileges that I and my colleagues in all other parties enjoy in this Legislature. I thank him for bringing forward his resolution, which has, I think, caused all members to think of this chamber and its rules. Perhaps I would agree with the government to some extent that the rules do need to be changed, that reform is warranted.

I had the opportunity to be in my riding yesterday and I spoke with a number of constituents who are very concerned with what appear to be the very raucous events that occur in this chamber day after day. I remind all members of the Legislature that Parliament is a substitute for war, and that in countries where they do not have the opportunity and freedom of speech to battle it out in a controlled chamber such as the one we have here they simply take

arms and have guerrilla warfare. It's important that members remind their constituents of that, as I do when school groups come and tell me, "Jeez, it's awfully noisy in there and people appear to be ill-mannered." I simply remind them that it's an excellent forum in which to voice very serious concerns on their behalf.

Because the government is contemplating rule changes, I want to put on the record some quotes from an article that appeared yesterday in the *Examiner*, one of the Barrie newspapers, by Gil Hardy, a member of our press gallery. It was sent to me by Mr Peter Sticklee, one of my very well informed constituents. In reference to the upcoming rule changes, I just want to quote from Mr Hardy, who says:

"But the NDP's antics from their time in opposition are coming back to haunt them. It's difficult to take Cooke's complaint seriously when he and his party wrote the book on delays and filibusters."

The important part here is the following:

"Cooke may well succeed in speeding up the process. But the short-term gains may have harmful lasting consequences. That's because the more substantial reforms needed to enhance the role of MPPs could be placed in peril. The reform process is barely under way and could easily dissolve because of bitterness over imposed rule changes. Without a balanced reform package agreed to by all sides, the Legislature will continue to stumble from crisis to crisis. It's a prospect MPPs should dwell on once the summer recess does begin."

I hope this morning's resolution brought forward by the member for Victoria-Haliburton, a member of the governing side of this Legislature, is a sign that the government is willing to discuss rule changes in a democratic and open way and that the government House leader will not simply dictate to this House what the reforms will be. My party and, I believe, the official opposition, the Liberal Party, are willing, as in the past, to sit down in a non-partisan fashion to try to hammer out reform to this Legislature, which I agree is needed. I thank the member for Victoria-Haliburton for beginning that process today.

1050

The Deputy Speaker: Further debate? The member for Welland-Thorold.

Mr Kormos: Yes, further debate, Mr Speaker. What we're going to do of course is distribute the time equally among people in this caucus who are debating it, so I want somebody to let me know when I've reached five minutes.

I tell you, Speaker, I'm really pleased to be able to join in this. I'm especially pleased to follow really as eminent a pair of colleagues as one could ever have: Mr Drainville, the member for Victoria-Haliburton, who has my respect and admiration, and Tony Rizzo, the member for Oakwood, who, I'm ashamed to say, probably wasn't treated particularly fairly over the last almost two years. None the less, he is now and always has been a vocal spokesperson for his riding and his constituents, articulating their concerns effectively to members of the NDP caucus and, more important, to members of cabinet.

I tell you, Tony Rizzo is a person of integrity and fairness and I'm especially pleased to be able to follow him in this debate and especially pleased that he is, as a New Democrat and an elected member, a colleague of mine. He has my respect, admiration and, I tell you, affection.

The member for Victoria-Haliburton—I know we're not supposed to refer to people by names, but holy zonkers, the fact is that there're folks watching there who don't have the little scorecards with them, or don't have the programs. His wife calls him Mr Drainville; I know that. So it's Mr Drainville, as Mrs Drainville would have him known by, but Dennis Drainville to bring this resolution and we all know it's a companion to the proposals that he has prepared and made to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, basically discussing an overall package of reform.

I've got to tell you something. Mr Drainville—I'm sorry, the member for Victoria-Haliburton, whom his folks down there know—I was with a couple of them yesterday when the people from the Ontario Real Estate Association were up here lobbying. Two of them were in from Haliburton and spoke well of him. Notwithstanding that they didn't agree with him politically or philosophically on every issue, they spoke highly of him, as I expected they would, knowing him much better than most of us do.

He's prepared a package of reform proposals which I've read with great interest. I know that Gil Hardy from Thomson News Service, who's a darned good journalist, has written at length about them and complimented the member for Victoria-Haliburton. Gil Hardy, who refers to him as "Dennis Drainville" in those columns, has complimented Dennis Drainville for the hard work and the insights into really what's needed around here if we're going to make the whole process more meaningful.

I'm just a backbencher from Welland-Thorold down in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula—just a backbencher. The reform proposals here, as they apply to independents, impress me all that much more, not because I necessarily ever anticipate being an independent—I will always be a New Democrat. I believe very strongly in the things New Democrats have always believed in and I'm as proud as anybody could ever be about being a member not only of the party but this NDP government. My concern is that what goes on around here—I was here for a little while before 1990. I remember when there were only 19 of us and that was in the official opposition. The third party had even fewer members. The government majority was so great, so numerous, that the government members didn't just occupy this side of the Legislature; they occupied where half of the Tories are sitting now in what was called the rump, for I'm sure a number of relevant reasons, no reflection on the people who were forced to sit there by their House leader.

The problem is that even when you have the phenomenon of, let's say, free votes—and the Premier recently on the issue of Sunday shopping indicated that there would be a free vote—you see, it's not really a free vote because if you're a member of cabinet and you happen to feel strongly about the issue, if you're a member of cabinet who wants to keep the

promise you made to your constituents, then you're not really free.

When is a free vote not really free? I suppose it reminds me of some of the final chapters of—what was the book?—*Animal Farm*, or *Here in 1992*, because “free vote” means free vote for caucus members but not free vote for cabinet ministers. Surely if there's going to be a free vote it ought to be a free vote for all participants.

When is a free vote not really a free vote? When there are motives, when ambitious caucus members may want to impress the Premier with the fact that they're on his side in this most unattractive, unseemly issue. That bothers me a great deal too.

I don't support all the reforms proposed by Dennis Drainville in his grand proposition, in his paper, but I believe very strongly that they warrant discussion. Every one of the propositions here is admirable, not only because they should apply to independent members but because they should apply to government members as well. I tell you that government members should be entitled to make members' statements as a matter of course and in a way where they're distributed fairly and equitably among members of the caucus, not just because people happen to attract the whim or the affection of the whip's office. I tell you, that's a ding-dong way of doing things that isn't acceptable to me and I don't believe is acceptable to fair-minded people.

I'm going to sit down now. I'm going to speak at length on the motion amending the rules, because I have some things to say about that. At this point at least, until those rule changes take place, I have the freedom and the right to speak to those.

But until then, let me tell you something: This coming Sunday—not this week but next week—June 21 at 1 pm in Welland, in the heart of the Niagara Peninsula is the Rose Festival Parade, one of the finest, greatest parades in all of Ontario. Come on down.

Mr David Winniger (London South): I am pleased to join in this debate today. Earlier my colleague and friend the member for Victoria-Haliburton set a lofty tone for this debate. I know he has had a long and enduring interest in parliamentary reform. I call him my friend, and I know his wife may refer to him as Mr Drainville but I usually call him Dennis. When Dennis quoted Aristotle, I was reminded of the birthplace of democracy in the city-states of Greece, where people would attend and make their popular will known to the government of the day in a very direct fashion.

But city-states multiplied, populations grew and society became increasingly complex. I think the representative democracy was a fine and honourable compromise that evolved over the years. When members are elected and bring with them all those rights and privileges to this august assembly, they have to remain accessible, they have to remain accountable and sometimes they have to put forward in this House the unique perspectives of their own constituents.

Sometimes those unique views and perspectives may not accord absolutely with the view of government; one hopes that they do. But in those instances, sometimes, as a result of conscience and principle, members have to

withdraw from their own caucuses. It is at that point, I suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that the constituents in that member's riding become unduly penalized, because they have effectively, under our current standing orders, lost their voice in this House.

I applaud the member for Victoria-Haliburton for coming here today and reminding me and the House of this loss because, although the voters may be enfranchised in a particular riding, if their member sitting as an independent has no opportunity to participate in the statements, the questions in the House and the debate or to sit on committees, those voters in that person's riding have effectively lost their voice in this House. So we need to restore to a significant degree the right of independent members to adequately and honourably reflect the interests of their constituents. I welcome the resolution of the member for Victoria-Haliburton and I'll certainly be providing my strong support for it today.

1100

Mr Drainville: First of all, I want to thank very much the members for Brampton South, York Mills, Oakwood, St Catharines, Simcoe West, Welland-Thorold and London South for their words and their support for this resolution.

I would like to say, though, that even though in these times when we discuss private members' public business we generally have a handful of people who are interested in an issue and come here and give of their advice and their knowledge and their wisdom, yet we must be careful that we do not see this experience as representing the full impact of what the people of Ontario are saying to us.

They are saying that we must change, that Parliament does not adequately represent the needs of the people any more, that the way we do public business needs to be altered so people have more access to government and so their representatives have more access to the decision-making processes which run government.

One time a poet named Robert Priest said these words, “Leaders are dangerous, but the most dangerous people are the followers.” Indeed that's true, for the people of this province now have to decide on leadership. They do not believe in the leadership, they do not believe in many of the things we do and say, so they are considering what their actions will be.

In the sight of those people, it is our obligation to ensure that they know that we are committed to such reforms as will bring democracy into a new spirit in this province, that we will continue to further and further the ends of democracy so there will come a time when the people of Ontario will know that those whom they have elected will be truly their representatives and that their voice will be heard.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for the first ballot item has expired.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION

Mrs Caplan moved second reading of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Education Act / Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Pursuant to standing order 94(c)(i), the member has 10 minutes for her presentation.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): This is the first time I have moved a private member's bill in this Legislature, and I'm pleased to do so on an issue which I think is of great importance to us in the province. The opportunity at this time is to discuss the issue in principle, and I hope to be able to convince members that it is worthy of support and further debate and discussion at committee. I believe that as members start to investigate and understand what my bill is proposing, they will realize that there is tremendous confusion and a great deal of what I would suggest is almost a chaotic situation in the province.

When we look at the principles of the right to education for children in Ontario, I think there's a general agreement in this debate in principle that all children should have the right to an education and that it is in Ontario's best interests to educate our children. We know as well that we tend to agree with the principle that says we should not be penalizing our children for the sins or the wrongdoings of their parents.

We further have goals in this province. We want the very best educated population we can have in the future so we can create wealth, create jobs, develop that human potential which I believe will make Ontario as attractive in the future as it has been in the past and enhance our competitiveness in this global world.

We have further goals in our society, to reduce illiteracy, reduce poverty, break the welfare cycle of dependency, and we know that education is the key to achieving those goals. There are some barriers in place today which I believe we just haven't thought about. This is the time, during private members' hour, when I would like to raise those issues and suggest that we can begin to correct some of those barriers within our society by giving the boards flexibility and discretion in the area of the establishment of fees.

Technically in the province of Ontario children do not automatically have the right to an education if they are the children of, for example, illegal immigrants. Similarly, the Education Act mandatorily sets a fee for the children of visitors or for those who would like to come and choose Ontario and who can well afford to pay for the education of the child.

I believe it is important that the boards be able to differentiate between these groups and, in order to ensure that all children have appropriate access to education, we must give the boards the flexibility to set policies which reflect the reality in their communities. In my community in North York, in the riding of Oriole, there are some children in the schools whose parents are fearful for one reason or another, and whenever there is a question of the child's eligibility for registration or a question of whether a fee should be assessed, that child will be pulled from the school and denied an education.

Today you have a situation where the school boards themselves often do not—and I stress, they often do not—register a child when they find out that they would then have to pursue the parents. Other school boards do register the child and then, as they would say and as they've told

me, "go after the parents." The result of going after the parents will often result in the child being denied an education, being denied access to that education. Unfortunately, the Education Act does not give the school boards the flexibility to set appropriate policies which will ensure that our children have access to education: those who are here today, those who often live in poverty, those who will be denied the right to be literate in the future unless they do have access to education.

There's nothing new in what I'm proposing. As I said, some school boards do it in spite of the law and others are looking for some clarification as to what their powers are. I don't believe this will ultimately mean a great cost or any cost to the school boards themselves. I do believe that unless we correct this, it will continue to have great economic impact on the province of Ontario because what will happen is that these children, denied access to education, will be more of a burden on our society in the future than they would have to be or would be at all if we gave them the key to successful living, the key which is education.

I was interested this morning to see an article in the *Globe and Mail* which says that education now seems to be a better way to stem fertility rates. I mean, everyone is suggesting that it is education which seems to be a more effective pill.

When we talk about poverty, when we talk about race relations, tolerance, illiteracy, anti-racism strategies, we know that education is the key. As a strong supporter of the public education system, I believe we can respond to the needs of the children in our society who today are being denied access to education.

This amendment of the Education Act is proposed to allow the children of non-residents who are not legally eligible to attend our schools without payment. It's that simple. It would allow the boards the discretion and the flexibility to waive these fees on an individual case-by-case basis.

1110

This amendment, I believe, will help clarify for school boards the situation of who is in fact eligible, under what circumstances, and allow the boards to respond appropriately to the needs and to the right of the child. I think it's timely for us, as Canada engages in the debate on the rights of the child which the United Nations in the recent Convention on the Rights of the Child has also addressed. I would draw members' attention to Article 28, item (e), which says: "We should take measures to encourage regular attendance in schools and the reduction of dropout rates."

The reason we have children in jeopardy is often because they are pulled out of one school, registered in another, and they don't have the consistency. This encourages, in my view, the kind of dropout rate that regular attendance would help if the child was not living in fear. I believe that's just one example of how we could begin to commit ourselves to the best interests of the child, which I believe is also in the best interests of Ontario.

This amendment, if passed and accepted in principle by the government today, could go to the standing committee on social development, which will be my request, or a standing committee of the Legislature if the social development committee is too busy, so that school boards could come in

and make us all aware of the situation that exists today in Ontario. It's my hope that this amendment would then enable the boards of education to educate the children in our community without the fear that they are breaking the law.

I've spoken with a number of educators around the province. I know that the situation in North York is perhaps different from the situation in other parts of the province, and I think it is important for us as legislators to look at our laws and see that they are responsive and flexible and that they are updated.

I would remind you that this province, under the Family Law Reform Act, removed the banner of illegitimacy. Children in Ontario are no longer illegitimate. By this amendment to the Education Act, we can say to children, "You are not illegal in Ontario." It is the kind of humane response that I believe is appropriate not only in 1992 but for the future as well.

I point out that this amendment does not interfere with the boards' ability to set fees for visitors. This amendment does not interfere with the boards' ability to set fees for out-of-district students. I believe all of that is appropriate and that the boards should have the ability to do that. What this amendment will do is ensure that all children living in Ontario will be entitled to an education while they are living in Ontario, and allow the school boards in Ontario to expand their mandate and to look at their policies to ensure that the principles and the goals that I've espoused today are part of their policies and considerations.

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I'll be speaking of course to Bill 24, the bill put forward by the member for Oriole on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus.

I would like, first of all, to commend the member for bringing to our attention the concern with regard to the application of fees and the mandatory fee that in fact exists in Ontario today for non-Canadian citizens, it says in the explanatory note here, who were admitted to a school by a school board. I think I will start by saying whether we mean "non-Canadian" or "non-resident," or whatever we do mean, the beginning of my speech is going to say that there's some confusion in this legislation, and I think the best result would be if we agree with the principle to have this bill referred to a committee, perhaps the social development committee, so we can have some clarification.

I would like to start by talking about the intent and the principle. It's my understanding that this amendment is proposed to allow the children of non-residents, who are not legally eligible, to attend school without payment. Right now, it is incumbent upon the boards to follow the law, and that is to impose a mandatory fee on the non-resident students. Some school boards, as the member for Oriole has already stated, have in fact waived this responsibility, and I think she's concerned, as we are, that if that's what they want to do, they ought to be able to do that without breaking the existing law of Ontario.

By giving school boards the flexibility and the discretion to waive school fees, children will be able to be educated in Ontario, which is our great goal. Every student, every young person in this province has a right to an education, and a right to that before all.

Certainly, with regard to people who intend to be citizens of this country and this province, we want to put our best foot forward and at least give the opportunity of an education to them. Many of them come from countries where they haven't been able to go to school. One the great hopes for any family is to come to this land, still, of opportunity, and opportunity begins in our schools.

It's nothing new apparently, this piece of legislation, except that the confusion the member for Oriole described is discriminatory against so many young children. This amendment will help clarify for school boards who is eligible to attend Ontario schools and may give us opportunity for some debate around our responsibilities as elected officials representing our constituents.

The amendment will inform school boards that it is okay to enrol children who are unable to pay the fees, and if this goes to committee, will allow those school boards to come before the committee to make their presentations. All children in Ontario, as I said, are entitled to a wonderful opportunity, to an education. This does not interfere with the boards' ability to set fees, if they choose to do that, I should say, and I'll underline this, for visitors or out-of-district students. I think that should still be part of the legislation and should not be changed. We don't want school boards to break the law.

I'd like to put on the record some of the concerns from the work we have done preparing ourselves for this morning, so that the member for Oriole will be prepared to deal with these as they may be raised at committee in the future; that is, if the government is going to give us that opportunity, which I think it ought to be able to do. These are the concerns expressed by school boards as we phoned out to them and as they contacted us.

They told us, and I think this is true, that illegal immigrants are not out for publicity. They are not the kind of people who are going to go around and talk about their status. They're afraid and concerned and they obviously eventually want some assistance in becoming Canadians. We're talking about their children. But they will not register with school boards for fear of being, in their words, tracked down at this terrible time in their lives. Don't get me wrong. I don't think any of us are here to support that kind of action. We're here to say it's a reality, that it exists and let's deal with it.

London right now is currently facing a high population of Salvadorans and Vietnamese, and it's been brought to our attention that some of them are of this status. The taxpayer will absorb the cost of this if we allow illegal immigrants into our school system without paying. That was the concern of all school boards. I think we have to have an opportunity to have some discussion around what that statement really means, because in the case of the greater Toronto area this number was given to us. Because immigrants tend to settle in the greater Toronto area, the Toronto board estimates this initiative could cost it approximately \$11 million.

Knowing the background of the member for Oriole, she is not interested in socking \$11 million to the Toronto Board of Education. Certainly, knowing the background of many in this House who have sat on school boards, that's

not what this is all about. But we are interested in hearing from them. This process today doesn't allow for that and so we have to get this into committee.

The Toronto board goes further, to say that it doesn't receive provincial dollars, so of course this would all be local taxpayers' money. I think it's up to them to debate that in one way or another, perhaps individual by individual or perhaps as a board policy, whatever they prefer to do as a result of this legislation.

We would love to have the opportunity for clarification of non-residents and non-Canadian citizens. The member for Oriole used the terminology "non-residents"; the explanatory note to the bill uses the word "non-Canadian."

We're in favour, in principle, of this legislation and we hope the government and the members of this House see fit to refer this to committee, probably the standing committee on social development, for further discussion and clarification and certainly to invite the school boards to be part of that.

1120

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): Upon first reading I found Bill 24, An Act to amend the Education Act, to be a very attractive piece of legislation. Who could deny equal access to all children? How can the government deny equal access? How can our government, a social democratic government whose history and traditions have sponsored immigrants—we have had members here in our community, such as Dan Heap, who have fought vigorously and hard at the federal scene to help immigrant families here in Toronto. Yes, there are many in our community who might deny such children, the children of illegal immigrants, access to schools here in Canada, but I suggest these people are mean-spirited and certainly do not represent the majority of our community who are fair and decent people.

As a family therapist, I would like to pick up on one of the comments our colleague the member for Oriole mentioned, the quote from the Bible of the sins of the father being passed unto the sons, unto the fourth generation. That is all too true here in Ontario—still too true.

I would go further and suggest that it's often the sins done unto the children, particularly the daughters, that are passed on from generation to generation. Here we are talking of adults who make decisions, who should be responsible for their decisions, but whose children should not be so responsible. In so many other areas we see that happening. How can we condone it? I have seen, as a social worker and a family therapist, so often how lives can be damaged for ever by actions that occur when youth are still at home, damage done to them that then passes on to their children.

How do we change that? We change it only through education and information, through an enlightened, informed, educated community. I think that here we have a community, an educational system, which is in the forefront of dealing with many difficult social problems.

Just this Monday we had Mr Silipo, the Minister of Education, speak about how the curriculum can be changed to deal with racism, an affront to those values we hold dear, those racist concepts that are still in our community. They can be approached; they can be dealt with

through the educational system. We know how well the educational system has dealt with issues like sexism, enhanced the role of women and young girls through an informed and enlightened perspective and moved our community ahead. We know how keenly aware students are of environmental issues.

Yes, I would suggest that the best way to invest in our community, in our youth, is through that system. I thank the member for using those quotes. We are in fact in a community blessed with an excellent educational system that is the marvel of many throughout the world.

In my community we have people from across the world who come to a private school, a visa school. I believe there are some 5,000 or 6,000 students who attend such schools in the greater Toronto area. These people pay an enormous amount of money, far more than the cost through our public educational system, so that these young girls at the Trafalgar Castle girls' school, formerly the Ontario Ladies College, can enjoy an Ontario education, something that is acceptable to our universities and to our community.

They have an excellent system; almost, I would say, the equivalent of our public educational system. I've had the opportunity of being there on many occasions; twice this very month. This Saturday I'll be at their graduation ceremonies and I look forward to that.

If this bill were passed, it would mean that schools like this would be in severe jeopardy. They are excellent schools, but the reasons these visa students come is because they want to have an education in Ontario. Were this bill to be passed, these visa students would be forced into the public system, and that private school, that excellent school, would probably go the way of many of its fellows in bygone days. So I would suggest a caution in that regard, as the previous speaker mentioned. While I support many aspects of this bill and its application, there is still concern in some areas, such as these private schools, such as Trafalgar Castle school, which I think would be imperilled by this act.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will allow my colleagues to speak about other of these issues.

Mr Charles Beer (York North): It's a pleasure to rise and join in the debate in support of my colleague's proposal. I welcome the comments that have been made by her, by our colleague the member for London North and our colleague the member for Durham Centre. I say at the outset, because I know well the school my colleague has just mentioned, Trafalgar Castle, that I appreciate the issue that has been brought forward. It seems to me this is one that could be dealt with and that there are some ways of handling it. Obviously, as the member for Oriole has said, in committee we would have an opportunity, I think, to address that. It is a real issue but one that I think can be addressed.

I'd like in my time to focus on two areas of the bill. The first thing I want to do is to say that I really think our focus—and I believe it's been the focus members have taken in addressing the issue—has been on children. I want to remind members of a debate we had in this House approximately two or more years ago. The document I'm holding in front of me is *Children Have Rights Too: A*

Primer on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Members who were here in the last Parliament will recall that the former member for Riverdale, David Reville, had brought in, actually, an opposition day motion urging that Ontario sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This document, which I strongly recommend to members, is an excellent document prepared here in Canada by a group of activists working with children. One of the things that makes it interesting—and I know it's hard to see on television—is that it is full of drawings by children and looks at some of the specific issues that children around the world face.

I think that all too often we, here in Canada, sometimes feel that we're better than all other countries and that we don't have any problems. I think, as all members know, we do have problems, and we need to focus particularly on children at risk and the factors that put children at risk.

I'd like, in this debate, just to read that part of the convention that speaks to education. This is what the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says about education:

"The child has a right to free and compulsory primary education, equal access to secondary and higher education and school discipline which reflects the child's human dignity.

"The state shall ensure that education is directed at developing the child's personality and talents; preparing the child for responsible life in a free society; and developing respect for the child's parents, basic human rights, the natural environment and the child's own cultural and national values and those of others."

That represents articles 18 and 19 of the United Nations convention. I think that in dealing with the issue before us, it's important to go back to some first principles, because whatever legal and technical difficulties there are in coping with this issue, none the less our focus is on children and making sure they all have an equal right and an equal access to education.

1130

I would also want to draw to members' attention, in support of my colleague's amendment, several other studies that have been done in Ontario over the last several years which talk about children at risk and the importance of ensuring they all have an education. Members may be aware of the Ontario Child Health Study: Children at Risk, which looked very specifically at the kinds of problems children can have that are going to mean they simply don't lead a normal life and don't have what most of us take for granted in terms of being able to lead full lives. Clearly one of those areas where kids can be at risk is if they do not have access to education. Obviously that is what the principle of this bill speaks towards. The Children First document—the former Minister of Community and Social Services, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick, was a member of this particular committee—again looked at how do we make sure all children will have access to education. Finally, the document Better Beginnings, Better Futures again set out a number of models by which we

wanted to help children have an equal playing field and not have to face a whole variety of problems.

So if we use that focus, whatever reservations we may have on, as I say, the technical-legal side, I think what we want to do with this bill, what's important, is to get this into committee where we can deal with it. I'm sure my colleague from Oriole would say that if indeed through that process we find a better way to ensure that, fine. The issue is just in making sure those young children, whose parents are perhaps frightened of the system and what might happen, will have that right to education made very clear.

The second point I would like to mention is one we faced when we were a government. I think it speaks to the federal government but it needs to be placed on the table today. This was the issue around refugee children. A few years ago members may recall there was a tremendous surge of refugees and a number of school boards in the Ottawa area and the greater Metropolitan Toronto area were suddenly finding large numbers of children showing up on their doorsteps and they had no knowledge they were there. The boards were frustrated, and it was understandable why they were frustrated: There was no funding that came with those children. At that time we had talks with the federal government around the whole question of refugees and how we make sure these young people can be in the school system and that there must be a responsibility on the federal government, given that it is responsible for the refugee system, to help the province, to help the school boards.

As we look at this specific issue, it is interesting that during the constitutional discussions that have been going on, the issue of immigration and how the provinces and the federal government come together in that area, which is of course right now a joint area, is an important one. In moving forward with this bill, Ontario may want to explore the idea of an agreement with the federal government around the question, among others, of children: children of refugees, children of illegal immigrants. It's difficult because one wants to say, "They're not there; we won't acknowledge that they're there," but we know they're there. I think it is a responsibility, in addition to the one we have here in this chamber, of the federal government in terms of a number of the funding issues that flow from that. We should not be hesitant in reminding them of that. Indeed, in my view, perhaps once the constitutional discussions are completed, we should look at whether Ontario, as do six other provinces, needs to have an immigration-refugee agreement with the federal government around the funding of a number of programs because, as has been stated earlier, Ontario and in particular Metropolitan Toronto will find the largest number of those children in this area.

I want to underline again that I think the member for Oriole has raised an issue the principle of which I think is fundamental and one we want to respond to. Whatever problems there are of a technical and legal nature, I think those we can address in committee. It would be very useful and helpful, not only to the children, to be able to bring to the committee representatives from school boards and others who work with children so that we can make sure every child living in this province is not going to be deterred

from having an education, participating in school, because of the legal status of his or her mother or father. I would urge all of us to support the member's bill.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I'm very pleased to join in the discussion today dealing with private member's Bill 24, An Act to amend the Education Act, which has been put forward by the member for Oriole. I agree with the principle. However, I would agree also with the member that this needs to be sent out to committee for further clarification. I think just today there have been many points that have been raised—for example, the definition. Are we dealing with non-resident or non-Canadian? I guess to me, "non-Canadian" means that anyone who's not yet a citizen would be denied access, so certainly we need to discuss that.

I would certainly agree that all children in this province need to have the right of access to education. Unfortunately, because of the situation that has been created throughout the province because we do have refugees who have not been granted landed immigrant status, because of people who are here illegally, there are children at the present time in this province who do not have access to education and who are sitting at home and certainly are not being served very well in preparation for their lives in the future. We need to take a look at how we best meet the needs of those children.

There's tremendous confusion throughout the province on this particular issue. We see some boards accepting children of refugees and we see others that do not, but certainly there are many, such as the ones in my own community, that on compassionate grounds do accept these children.

We have some other cases now in my community as well, and I know throughout the province, where we have children who come from countries where there is civil war and they come to stay with relatives in Ontario. They are now seeking access to our public and separate school system. Again, we need to determine, how do you deal with those children who have been sent away from the country because of war and possible death and a very uncertain future?

I think we need to take a look at this issue, because there is tremendous confusion and each board seems to be dealing with the issue quite separately. This amendment would certainly help to clarify for school boards who is or is not eligible to attend Ontario schools, because there always is the possibility for abuse. There are many people who admire the Ontario school system and obviously would send their children here to stay with family, and we have to make sure that the reasons are appropriate.

I think, as I mentioned, we need to clarify that definition. Who is it that we're talking about? Are we talking about a non-resident in that school community, a non-Canadian or who? That certainly needs clarification.

I've had an opportunity to talk to a few people in school boards, and although they do agree with this bill in principle, they have some concerns. It appears innocuous. It appears to be housekeeping. But because of the lack of clarification today, they've raised a couple of concerns I would just like to share with you today that could be potentially serious and that we need to give some very

serious consideration to. Really it's the confusion over the definition: Is it non-resident, non-Canadian, or what are we dealing with?

I'm pleased that these school boards did take advantage of the opportunity to provide me with some feedback, and I guess that's the reason why this bill needs to go out to committee for discussion. We need to hear not only from school boards but from groups and individuals who have been directly impacted by the confusion existing in the province today. As I say, we all approve of the principle and we recognize that children should have access to the system. However, there are some serious implications.

1140

For example, if we're talking about non-residents in a school district and if there is a strike at that board, because the bill indicates that every child in Ontario is entitled to an education, neighbouring boards—in my case, if Waterloo went on strike, Wellington, Wentworth etc—would be mandated to provide spaces to those children who applied and paid the associated fees, and the boards could not refuse them. We need to clarify that situation and make sure we know exactly whether this would be a reality. We do have strikes at school boards, so that could certainly happen. We've had them in the past and students then seek to cross the line and enrol in neighbouring boards. And of course it provides hardship for that board; they simply don't have the space or the teachers to deal with the additional students who are coming from boards that are undergoing a strike.

Second, if foreign students apply for admission to the system and pay the fee, it's possible, because of the lack of clarification we have here today, that boards throughout the province would lose the power to refuse to take them. We need to take a look at that because it could have very serious implications for school boards. Again, it could raise the cost of local education within an area and put an additional tax burden on those residents.

Finally, there is a concern that if you have a board in this province that is respected and well known for undertaking a high-risk, expensive special education program, we all know that people throughout the province would probably like to have access to that board, especially those people from neighbouring jurisdictions who could easily be transported back and forth by their guardians or parents. Boards then could lose the right to refuse admission to the special education programs they offer. Again, it's a lack of clarification. And, of course, since the amount of the fee that boards can levy is presently capped, they would not be able to recover the full cost of these very expensive special education programs, and the difference would have to be paid by the taxpayer in the jurisdiction providing the program.

So we need to clarify. Are we talking about non-residents in the board's district? Are we talking about children whose parents are refugees or illegal immigrants? Obviously we're not talking about children who are here and are landed immigrants, but again, the bill does not make it clear. Certainly I wholeheartedly support in principle the bill that's being put before us today. I hope we will send this out to committee and that we can very quickly resolve this situation, because

there are many children throughout this province who today, for whatever reasons, are not attending school and are being denied that very basic right. I would support this and my caucus will support it.

Mr David Winninger (London South): I, too, am pleased to lend my support to Bill 24. I compliment the member for Oriole on her bold initiative, which I think deserves our support in enabling people who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada to attend schools in Ontario without the payment of maximum fees. As you know, Mr Speaker, people enter Canada for a variety of reasons: for education, for work, to visit sometimes and often as refugees. Many of the newcomers to my riding of London South came to London as refugees from Central America, Poland or other places where they have experienced considerable political turmoil.

I think we have to be mindful that there is indeed a lot of consultation that has to be done on this. I think the member for York North and also the member for Waterloo North underscored this point today. We need to look at what the cost implications are. What are the cost implications for our school boards? As you all know, education is financed not only through provincial grants but also through municipal assessment, so we need to consult with our local school boards. Perhaps the work of the Fair Tax Commission will be relevant here. Perhaps we'll also look at amendments to the education finance reform act. These are important considerations that interact with this particular bill.

As you know, currently the Education Act provides that a person who is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident can be charged a fee calculated in accordance with the regulations. It's unfortunate that many of the people who come here to Canada as refugees are the least able to afford payment of these fees, and I think this amendment would go a long way towards obviating their particular plight.

There are indeed, as the act stands right now, exceptions provided for in subsection 49(7), I believe, from the requirement to pay maximum fees on behalf of several classes of non-citizens or non-permanent residents to Canada, including refugees and members of the diplomatic corps, but I certainly feel we would do no injustice in expanding these categories of exception to the payment of fees.

There are also concerns, I know, under section 15 of the Charter of Rights as to whether we can justify differential treatment of people who are non-residents. I know recent jurisprudence flowing from the Supreme Court of Canada would seem to support the view that we can't support this kind of discrimination. I think the amendment the member for Oriole promotes in the House today would certainly bring our legislation under the Education Act more into conformity with section 15 of the Charter of Rights.

At the same time, if we remove the requirement of payment of fees, we definitely have to consult with the federal government, as the member for York North observed, because certainly if we relax the requirement for payment of maximum fees, it may increase the demand for easier access to student visas under the Immigration Act, and I think we have to be prepared for that.

We need to consult with the federal government. We need to consult with the boards of education and municipalities. I think we need to consult with the private schools that are currently targeting people in this category to ensure what effect this legislation would have on the future of those schools and other private schools where visa students are currently enrolled. There's a great deal of consultation that has to be done in connection with the costs and consequences of the amendment put forward by the member for Oriole, but in principle I'm certainly prepared to lend my own support to second reading of Bill 24 today.

The Deputy Speaker: Would you like to take the remaining five minutes?

Mr Gary Wilson (Kingston and The Islands): Yes, I would.

The Deputy Speaker: We'll finish first with the member for Kingston and The Islands.

1150

Mr Gary Wilson: I'm pleased to join my colleagues in this debate, because I think, as has been well said already and is shown by the interest in this bill, we do have a great interest in educational matters. I'm very pleased to see so many school children in the gallery today watching these proceedings, because, as they can hear from the debate, this affects their future as well as their kids' future.

I think the member for London South has outlined very well some of the areas of concern we have with this bill. He supports it in principle. I join him in saying that. Several speakers have outlined where problems lie in this that have to be looked at very carefully. One of course is consultation with the federal government to make sure this fits in with its legislation and where it would like to see this area move. I think, though, that the member for York North, in outlining the reports that have come forth on matters dealing with children, including education—that is, Better Beginnings, Better Futures; Children First, and Children at Risk—shows that this is an issue that goes to the heart of our policies dealing with children.

Regardless of the issue the member for Oriole raises of people who are left out of the system, even the kids who are in our school system now need the best school system possible. I think the problems that have to be addressed in this bill relate to the money available. Certainly we want to make sure the money is there, but we don't want to cause changes to it that will create dislocations that will cause downgrading of the educational system. I think it is understood that we will look at this very carefully.

The final thing, though, is to have the best school system possible for all our children, to make sure it is accessible to whoever that child is in our community, partly because that is a thing we can use that goes beyond our community into the world at large, that the resources we have as a group will be devoted to the best interests of everybody.

The member for Downsview has shown some interest in this matter as well, so I would like to give him some time.

The Deputy Speaker: There is one minute and 19 seconds left.

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak to this bill as well. I would like to applaud the efforts of the member for Oriole. I don't normally agree with many of her positions, but I do agree with her position on this particular bill. As a former trustee, I can tell you that this is something school boards often have problems grappling with when there are children on their doorstep who are otherwise not receiving the education that, in my view, they would normally be entitled to if they are to have any hope of being able to become productive citizens in this country or any other country.

I do have some reservation about some of the technical aspects of the bill, because I attended a high school where we had many very well-to-do students who came from the Orient in most cases. My reservations would be that if this were to happen as is before us, those students would be able to get a free education here when they could technically afford to pay.

Mrs Caplan: I would like to thank all those members who spoke in support in principle. I would like to point out that the member for London North, the member for Durham Centre, the member for York North, the member for Waterloo North, the member for London South, the member for Downsview, the member for Kingston and The Islands, members from all parts of the province understand and share the principle that's been put forward today for the debate and, further, that private members' hour is an opportunity for every member of this House to raise issues of concern, to debate them in a non-partisan way and then to, hopefully with the support of the House, continue that debate at committee, where we can address the issues that have been raised in a very thoughtful way by many of my colleagues on both sides of the House in today's debate.

I would like to mention and be very clear that I do not condone the behaviour of illegal immigrants. I do not condone the actions of adults who come to this country in an illegal way. I do not condone lawbreaking in any manner whatever. My intention with this legislation is to say that while I do not condone illegal behaviour or lawbreaking in any way, I also believe that it is in Ontario's interests, our interests today and in the future, to ensure that all children living in Ontario, whether the status of their parents is legal or not, to see that those children are educated.

If the parents are subsequently deported, the child will return a little better educated to the country of origin. If the parents are granted amnesty or find a way to apply for legal status in the future, then that child will be a more productive citizen of Ontario in the future.

I'm the first one to agree that there is great confusion among educators and school boards in this province today as to how to resolve this issue. I've heard members of the Legislature this morning talk about the intergovernmental and interinstitutional and interjurisdictional difficulties with this issue. I hope with this bill in committee we could begin to address how to do that, but I don't believe the barrier of intergovernmental dispute, bureaucratic wrangling, should stand in the way of legislators solving a problem which will lead to greater prosperity, greater economic activity and greater wealth creation as well as a

better place for all our children and grandchildren, because we've taken steps today to ensure equality of access to education for children living in Ontario.

My colleague the member for York North in particular, and others, referred to very important documents, one which contains the signature of Mr Beer, the member for York North: *Better Beginnings, Better Futures*. I don't think there's a statement which says it better than, "If you give children a better beginning, you will have a better future." If we in Ontario dedicate ourselves to ensuring that all children have access to education, ensuring that when they arrive in this province and however they come here they have a better beginning, we will all in Ontario have a better future because of that.

The *Children at Risk* study, the *Children First* documentation and *Children Have Rights Too*, all before us in this House at one time or another for debate, suggest that we share this common goal, and the debate this morning, I think, has just highlighted how much we in this House all have in common. I would ask that this piece of legislation be allowed to proceed to committee so that we can find the solutions together.

I do not intend, through this legislation, to have an impact on visa students, to have an impact on those students who should quite properly be able to be charged for the education they receive in Ontario. That is not the intent of this bill. I would point out to one member—I believe it was the member for London South—who said that under today's existing law students can be charged, that without the definitional clarity, students must be charged. The boards have no discretion; the boards have no flexibility in the cases of those children who, as the member for Downsview quite rightly pointed out, are often on their doorstep identified as in need, identified as at risk of being uneducated, facing a future illiterate and facing a future without opportunity because legally today the boards in Ontario must charge. They cannot have any discretion to waive the fees.

I was interested also in the comments of my colleagues the member for London North and the member for Waterloo North regarding the potential costs. I believe there are many school boards today that in fact do not obey the law and educate these children. I applaud them for doing that, but I don't think they should have to break the law to do it.

1200

I am also very surprised at the estimate from the city of Toronto and I hope we could explore that further, because it is my understanding that the policy of the city of Toronto school board is to admit these children and not ask any questions.

If in fact there are those kinds of potential costs, I think we should explore that and determine how we would resolve that. There is only one taxpayer in this country. That taxpayer pays federal taxes, provincial taxes and municipal taxes, and we all have to be sensitive to that taxpayer, because nobody wants to pay more taxes. At the same time, I would point out that the cost to that very same taxpayer of having illiterate, uneducated, unproductive, wasted resources in this province is a much greater cost that we cannot bear when there is a solution.

I would again like to thank all of those who participated. I'd also like to thank the administrator of the North York school board who pointed out to me that this was an issue that should be addressed. I want to thank him for bringing that to my attention and to thank those school boards which offered advice and assistance as we did some research into this issue. I'm hopeful we will have the opportunity at committee to find a solution so that we can ensure that children in Ontario have access to the education we all want them to have.

The Deputy Speaker: The time for private member's public business has expired.

ROLE OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Deputy Speaker: We will deal first with ballot item 13, standing in the name of Mr Drainville. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

Mr Drainville has moved private member's resolution 10. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION

The Deputy Speaker: We will now deal with ballot item 14 standing in the name of Mrs Caplan. If any members are opposed to a vote on this ballot item, will they please rise.

1207

The House divided on Mrs Caplan's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—43

Beer, Bradley, Callahan, Caplan, Christopherson, Cooper, Cunningham, Curling, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Frankford, Haeck, Hansen, Hayes, Johnson, Klopp, Lessard, Mammoliti, Marchese, Mathysen, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, Owens, Perruzza, Poole, Rizzo, Runciman, Ruprecht, Sullivan, Sutherland, Turnbull, Villeneuve, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Wilson (Simcoe West), Winninger, Wiseman, Witmer, Wood.

Nays—0

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: We will wait for the member to take his seat. Pursuant to standing order 94(k), this bill is referred to the committee of the whole.

Mrs Caplan: I request that it be referred to the standing committee on social development.

The Deputy Speaker: This bill will be referred to the standing committee on social development. Agreed? All those in favour of the question will please rise and remain standing.

Please take your seats. The majority of the House being in agreement, this bill stands referred to the standing committee on social development.

All matters relating to private members' public business having been completed, I do now leave the chair, and the House will resume at 1:30.

The House recessed at 1212.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1330.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I'd like to make some comments to the members of this House and the people of Ontario with respect to the clean air program, otherwise known as CAP. This is a bit of history I'd like to share with some of my colleagues and the people of Ontario.

Regulation 308 of the Environmental Protection Act was actually first brought into being and promulgated in 1968. At that time there were obviously different technologies and methodologies in terms of measuring air pollution.

In August 1990, after, I might say, a considerable amount of work done by the previous government under the leadership of Mr Bradley, the member for St Catharines, regulations were put in place that were in draft form.

Let me give a bit of history of what happened there. The Liberal government responded to the outdated regulations by setting up a working paper and said, "How can we arrive at regulations that will deal with clean air initiatives in this province?" Out of that came draft regulations. They were tabled or submitted to the public at large in August 1990 with a view to having a six-month consultation period to refine those regulations and bring them into place. That public process would have resulted in those regulations being on line in February 1991. To date we have heard nothing at all from the current Minister of the Environment. We have no idea what her plans are for continuing the clean air program or for a new program.

Changes in regulations are important. The direction of this government is important. People want to know, industry wants to know, environmental groups want to know. In the absence of any consultation there is no degree of certainty as to what is happening with the clean air program. The people of Ontario are looking for leadership in this area and deserve to have this government pick up the good work that was begun and to do something with it.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): The Minister of Health is currently reviewing the Swimmer report, which recommends that the province take over all ambulance services in Ontario. Private ambulance operators have grave concerns about this recommendation and how it will affect their business. The Ontario Ambulance Operators' Association believes that the minister should not adopt this recommendation because it will be too expensive and will not improve the quality of services in the province.

The Ontario Hospital Association has also expressed concerns about the province taking over ambulance services. They also believe it would be too expensive and would reduce local autonomy and accountability.

My PC colleagues and I agree. Buying out private operators would cost the province millions of dollars at a time when health care costs are spiralling out of control

and hospital beds are being closed and staff laid off. The cost of implementing this recommendation would be yet another unwelcome burden on the taxpayers of Ontario.

Unfortunately, private ambulance operators have good reason to worry about their future. They have seen the NDP's attempts to run private day care centres out of business and they fear the same will happen to them. Private operators also have legitimate concerns about whether they would be adequately compensated if the province decided to run them out of business. The NDP has not given private day care centres adequate compensation, and there is good reason to believe private ambulance operators would fare no better.

I urge the minister, who has endorsed the principles of the Swimmer report, to do the right thing and allow private ambulance services to continue to operate in Ontario.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): For 14 months now 27 employees of the Cambridge Reporter have attempted to negotiate a first contract with their employer, a division of the Thomson newspaper chain. After months of stalling tactics by the company, the Reporter employees were forced to take strike action. The company responded by recruiting replacement workers.

Following three months of strike, the Ontario Labour Relations Board decided in favour of the employee guild's request for first-contract arbitration. Unfortunately, the management of the Reporter continues to operate in its customary heavy-handed, autocratic manner. The Reporter has now fired four of its full-time employees. You won't be surprised to learn, Mr Speaker, that all these individuals were individuals who exercised their democratic right to strike, and they had from two to nine years of seniority.

This action by the Reporter's management might be justified if they were downsizing, but this is not the case. Replacement workers hired during the strike have been kept on. Replacement workers with just a few months' experience stay on while experienced staff are let go. To add insult to injury, during negotiations prior to the strike the company and union had agreed to bumping privileges for senior employees. This article, however, is not binding until the first contract is arbitrated.

I ask you, Mr Speaker, why do we need the proposed Ontario Labour Relations Act? Precisely because we have employers such as Thomson's Cambridge Reporter. Unfortunately this legislation was not in place to protect these workers at the Cambridge Reporter. Hopefully it will help others in the future.

DENTAL CARE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I'd like to bring the attention of the House and the Minister of Health to the very real problem of inadequate dental care faced by thousands of Ontario seniors and long-term care clients.

The plight of our senior citizens with dental problems has been well documented. In addition to a recent study conducted by the Ontario Society of Public Health Dentists,

an investigation conducted by the Dental Committee on Dental Care for Seniors in Need showed that approximately 75% of seniors were found in need of preventive dental care and 25% were in need of dental treatment requiring the services of a dentist or denturist. Moreover, many seniors are not eligible for dental insurance plans and simply cannot afford adequate dental care on their meagre incomes.

All of this amounts to indicating that the time has come for the minister to move on this very important issue. While I understand the issues that have come to bear on the Health budget in general, this is a step, taken in time, that can save millions of our taxpayers' dollars.

I only point to the fact that the dental program for children in Ontario, which was put in place by the Liberal government, showed positive results to the extent that now there is less need than ever before for dental invasive procedures with respect to our young children.

I believe if the current government follows the lead of the two previous Liberal ministers of Health, myself and the member for Oriole, and brings this program to operational activity, it could save the province lots of money and bring better health to our seniors.

COLLEGE STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My statement today is directed to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and of Skills Development.

One of the recommendations in Vision 2000, the report on quality and opportunity, was to develop a College Standards and Accreditation Council called CSAC. In September 1991 the minister announced the creation of a CSAC establishment board to seek the views of interested parties and citizens on the major issues facing this body.

The discussion paper of the CSAC establishment board proposes that CSAC ensure that general education constitutes 30% of program hours for all college program within 10 years following the establishment of CSAC. This recommendation does not add extra hours to the curriculum to compensate for this. It will be at the expense of vocational education.

We know that technical, vocational and generic skills are all important, but given the economic challenges that business and industry are experiencing, it is important that students are receiving the technical skills they need to compete in our competitive global economy. Many college programs are set up to be intensely geared towards a specific field of study. If these programs have to be watered down in order to meet general education quotas, the students and the industries that hire them will be the losers. Quality is very important, but so is opportunity—opportunity for our young people to be trained in colleges across this province with job-training skills.

CARROUSEL OF THE NATIONS

Mr Wayne Lessard (Windsor-Walkerville): The 17th annual Carrousel of the Nations, Windsor's multicultural celebration presented by the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, will be held Friday, June 12, Saturday, June 13, Sunday, June 14, Friday, June 19,

Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21. In recognition of our 100th anniversary as a city, Carrousel of the Nations will salute this special occasion under the theme "Carrousel Celebrates Windsor's Centennial."

Carrousel this year will feature 28 ethnocultural villages, including Afro-Canadian, British, Caribbean, Chinese, Croatian, Filipino, German, Greek, two Hungarian villages, Indian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Lebanese, Macedonian, Polish, Scottish, two Serbian villages, Slovenian and three Ukrainian villages. I want to personally welcome three new villages this year: Trinidad and Tobago, Slovak Nativity Lutheran Church and Maltese.

I'm proud to say that all but five of these villages are located in my riding of Windsor-Walkerville and all will be presenting the best in traditional cuisine, entertainment, crafts and displays. And the best part of all: Admission is free. Opening ceremonies take place tomorrow afternoon at Lanspeary Park on Ottawa Street, and I want to recognize and express my thanks to the sponsors of this year's Carrousel, Tony Azar and Raymax Construction, CBC and Molson.

1340

PHILIPPINES INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr Tony Ruprecht (Parkdale): I rise today for the purpose of recognizing a special event that occurred 92 years ago, June 12, 1898: the establishment of a free, independent, democratic republic of the Philippines. This day is not only an important date in history, but it has great significance to our Canadian citizens of Filipino heritage.

Though many of us take our democratic system of government for granted, the celebration of the 92nd anniversary of the establishment of democracy in their beloved homeland serves us as well as a useful reminder to all that in order for the tradition of freedom to be preserved it must be valued and guarded with great vigilance.

In recognition of the important contributions that Canadians of Filipino heritage have made to economic development and indeed the cultural enrichment of our province and country, the blue, red and white flag of an independent Philippines will be raised tomorrow morning at city hall.

These Philippine colours have become an international symbol of the indomitable spirit of democracy and serve as an inspiration to us all to strengthen the bonds of friendship, respect and affection that we have for the Filipino Canadian community. Therefore, in recognition of this special day, we say to all our friends who trace their roots to the Philippines, "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas."

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I'm very concerned with the latest unwelcome development in the relationship between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the conservation authorities of Ontario. Under a memorandum of agreement signed April 16, 1986, with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has on two occasions, in September 1987 and May 1989, asked for and received a withdrawal of surplus funds in respect of revenues received by the minister in management of the forest area.

On March 31 of this year, knowing the balance of the program account was over \$40,000, Grey Sauble asked for further money. Instead of a cheque, it received a letter announcing that the ministry was reneging on the agreement and had unilaterally decided to review the process and would be withholding funds in the interim. The conservation authority signed and has honoured this agreement in good faith. It relies on revenue from the sale of trees to carry out its program and now, especially when funding is being slashed, it seems most unfair to withhold money which has traditionally belonged to the authority.

It seems to me that if the ministry can, with no consultation, go back on the agreement it signed, a conservation authority may do likewise. If the minister wishes to have the agreement stand, perhaps he could investigate the situation and advise me and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority as quickly as possible.

SISTER CHRISTINE LEYSER

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): People in Guelph were happy to learn that Sister Christine Leyser of the Sisters of Loretto is one of 12 recipients of the 1992 Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. Sister Christine is a familiar downtown figure, providing meals, shelter, advice and encouragement. She is also a well-known activist for Guelph's poor and homeless.

Sister Christine left a long teaching career in 1979 to work with inmates at the Ontario Correctional Rehabilitation Farm in Guelph and the Ontario Correctional Centre. She soon realized that these people needed help after they were released. In 1983 Sister Christine organized the Welcome In Drop In Centre Corp. The board included representatives from churches, the trades, social work and a doctor.

In 1984 the Welcome In Drop In Centre opened, serving coffee and doughnuts. Now it is open seven days a week and serves a noontime lunch and evening meal. It is a place where people can get nutritious, affordable and good food, friendship and support. On any given day, there are about 40 clients at the centre. Some 90 volunteers staff the centre and Sister Christine is usually on hand all day.

In 1984 Sister Christine opened the Dwelling Place to provide longer-term supportive housing for about eight adults. In 1986 she opened the Stepping Stone to provide emergency shelter for about 10 individuals. Sister Christine has also been putting up the homeless at various motels. In the late 1980s, she spearheaded a move by the Guelph Non-Profit Housing Corp to build 38 affordable homes for families and individuals. This project is called Yorkhaven.

Sister Christine is a credit to our community and she makes our community a lot richer.

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As you know, Thursday is a very important day around this building. We have House leaders' meetings to deal with the business of the day, and from time to time there is disagreement with respect to what we can and cannot do in this Legislative Assembly.

Mr Speaker, you will be aware of the fact that under the standing orders, if this were a regular sitting of the House, after today's date no further bills could be introduced that allow for second reading to follow by the end of the sitting of the House unless something is reached consensually to allow otherwise.

In fairness to the House leader for the government, he has agreed that he won't force this issue on us, but I wish to bring to your attention the fact that the government House leader has advised us today that under standing order 66 he is not under any prohibition at all from introducing bills after the end of June, if we are still sitting here in July, that will preclude their passage into second reading and beyond if he so chooses.

This presents to us in the opposition some pretty difficult questions. If he decides he will introduce a bill as of Monday's date or next Tuesday's date or next Thursday's date, we could sit here and look at it for a little while and it would then wait for debate in the fall, unless, as he tells us he has been advised by some experts—and we haven't seen the opinion because he said it was given orally—he extends the sitting into July, in which case any bill he chooses to introduce from now until the rising of the House in July he says he can force to second reading and in fact pass it.

It is my contention, on behalf of the opposition Liberals at least, and probably on behalf of the opposition Conservatives, that the spirit of putting into play standing order 66, which is a new rule, was to prevent the government of the day—our's in that situation, but also dealing with the Tory administration before—bringing bills to the House on the last few days of a sitting and stuffing them into the debate channel and requiring their second reading passage and ordering them for debate or whatever in committee in the summer months.

That would seem to be unfair to the opposition since we would not be prepared then to give it a successful debate and go out to the public and get our own materials in order so we could provide the appropriate interjections that are required for debating the bill.

I was, unhappily, very upset by the suggestion of the House leader that if he is unable to introduce his London annexation bill today, with an introduction of that bill on a date later than today but with the House extended into July, it could be forced to second reading without a consensual agreement among all of us. He alleged that he had advice that this was in fact correct. I have countered that with the very strongest suggestion that it would be a nasty departure from the real reason the rule was brought in.

While I wish to tell you now that there is every probability we can come to some kind of agreement with respect to that piece of legislation, I was totally taken off guard that the government House leader would actually suggest that merely by extending the sitting of the House, he could take out the operation of standing order 66 and thereby really negate the safeguard against the end of public debate—or at least the unfair nature of opposition being prevented against the bill.

I'm sorry for going on, Mr Speaker, but I wanted to give you the full facts, and I don't want to say that the

government House leader hasn't now agreed to come and talk to us about the bill, but I want you now to deliberate upon that very point of standing order 66 and advise the House formally whether it is your position that in fact that rule can be negated by merely extending the sittings of this place a day or two, at the discretion of the government. I would see a positive declaration on your part to that assertion as really ending the reason for having that rule in the books at all. I thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

1350

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point, Mr Speaker, I think this is a fairly significant point of order in that I suspect it has not been ruled upon since the rules were changed in 1989. I would reiterate some of the points my colleague has made with respect to standing order 66 and the whole intent and rationale behind standing order 66 in the first place.

The rule changes started some time probably in about 1986 or 1987 and in effect weren't agreed upon by all three parties consensually, as of course we always do in this province, until 1989. The whole point of inserting that rule in there was so that governments of the day, regardless of what political stripe they were, could not put a whole pile of legislation on the order paper at the last minute and expect it to be passed without proper notice and debate and giving the public and the opposition parties an opportunity to respond to whatever legislation it was that the government of the day chose to introduce. That is the whole point for having standing order 66.

I realize that if you read that standing order in an extremely technical fashion, it talks about "the last eight sessional days in June" and it talks about "the last eight sessional days in December."

I can't use the expression, because I can't use the word "liar" in this Legislature, but I guess there's a way around anything. It is not the intent and wasn't the intent of the individual who negotiated these rule changes for the New Democratic Party at the time, I might add—in fact they were very concerned that this standing order be put in here to prevent any government in the future—presumably they never thought they'd ever be elected government, but lo and behold they have been. The whole intent of that rule is that the government cannot dump a whole pile of legislation on to the order paper, and in this case now use the argument that it is trying to circumvent the rule by extending the sitting time or the sessional days during which a particular sitting of the House happens to occur.

I don't think any reasonable person would come to the conclusion, "If I can just get past June 25 and have the House come back on June 29, then I can introduce 1,027 pieces of legislation and I'm entitled to get them passed next week because I've found a technical way to breach the rules." I know that would be the technical argument the government House leader might use, but I would strongly urge you to consider, Mr Speaker, the thinking and the rationale that went into and the intent behind rule 66 in the first place.

Surely if the government has ordered its agenda in a proper fashion, it will have no problem at least having first reading of any bill it intends to pass. I can see it, as it finds itself now, not being able to get its legislation passed and therefore extending the sitting of the House, but I don't think that should allow it to abrogate the spirit and the intent of rule 66.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I appreciate the fact that the opposition House leaders have raised this matter, and even though it's a hypothetical question, I think it would be appropriate for you to rule. If I were an opposition House leader, I wouldn't necessarily want this matter ruled on in the House.

This morning when we had the House leaders' meeting, I raised the matter with the House leaders. The House leader for the official opposition raised a concern and expressed the concern. I thought we had resolved it in that I said we would share the draft legislation, see if we could work it out and see if it could be sorted out, because I understood the concern. I thought that was the purpose of House leaders' meetings, to try to sort it out.

But, Mr Speaker, I agree; I think it would be useful for all of us to have this matter ruled on so that the opposition and the government understand that if the House does sit into July, that section of the rules doesn't apply.

There's one piece of legislation the issue arises from, and it is the London-Middlesex annexation, whereby I've been trying to sort out a solution with local people and advise the opposition parties that I wasn't going to be able to meet the date of the 11th, but because of the date for the annexation to take effect, we have to get the legislation dealt with for second reading to have public hearings in London.

I think the matter could have been dealt with among the three of us in the way the opposition House leader eventually suggested this morning in the House leaders' meeting, but if he wants a ruling that will stick and be clear in the House that would be fine with me.

The Speaker: To the three House leaders—

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, the government House leader, on his sitting down, said some things that I think I should ask about.

He has basically said he's going to get a ruling from you that says you will allow them to introduce bills and get second reading. He said, "We want this thing on the record and we know that the opposition will not be happy with it."

Mr Speaker, I hope he hasn't predetermined this. I just want to reiterate in the strongest fashion possible that a positive answer to the request to allow introduction of bills in those last eight sessional days and then getting second reading would really be a usurpation of the whole spirit of this standing order.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce and the House leader for the official opposition, the member for Parry Sound, the House leader for the third party, and the government House leader, there are a couple of aspects that all members should be aware of.

First, it is clear that by the standing orders this House will rise on Thursday, June 25. Any bill to be passed during the next two weeks must, of course, be introduced by today at the latest; that's clear, with the exception of unanimous consent.

Beyond that point, what the House is asking me to deal with is a hypothetical situation. I must say, however, that while it would be inappropriate for any Speaker to deal with a hypothetical situation, I understand full well the intent and purpose of the rule which the House leader has stated and indeed, I guess succinctly, the intent and purpose is to allow a reasonable amount of time for debate on any measure that's brought before the House except, of course, with unanimous consent that such a matter could be dealt with expeditiously in less than the prescribed two-week period.

Having said that, while it's not my intention to disappoint anyone who brings points of order to my attention, I think it would not be proper for the Speaker to rule on a hypothetical situation.

Lastly, of course, as always, what makes this place function best is when the three House leaders are able to come to an amicable conclusion with respect to the business of the House.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, if I may, I appreciate that you don't want to deal with hypotheticals, but I find that the operation of this place is going to be somewhat stymied by the government House leader holding this weapon over our heads. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that from my point of view it is not hypothetical when you sit in a meeting with the government House leader and have to argue for some time to get us back to where there is agreement as to the introduction of and dealing with a piece of legislation.

He has used the very first tool he had at his disposition, which was to say that standing order 66 has no effect if you sit beyond the end of June. That makes it a real situation for me and for the people in opposition. While you see it as hypothetical in a sense—the bill has not yet been brought in—it is real in those meetings and it does take time for us to deal with those situations.

I only want to bring that to your attention—I don't want you to deliberate upon it further; we will, at an appropriate time, if that were to arise, bring this back—just to allow you the knowledge that the standing order 66 issue is being used effectively and aggressively by the government House leader.

The Speaker: In conclusion on this point, I appreciate what the House leader has brought to my attention and I can assure him that at any time when an unusual procedural matter is brought to the attention of the Speaker it will be taken into consideration very seriously with respect to not only the rules but the precedents and the intent of the standing orders which govern the operation of our House.

1400

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I'm pleased to tell the members of the House that I've released this morning a new report, *Offences Against the Environment*. This report marks a first for Ontario, a who's who of individuals, companies and institutions convicted of environmental offences in this province.

We are making this information available to send the message to would-be polluters that assaults on our natural surroundings will not be tolerated.

As you can see from this report, my ministry's investigations and enforcement branch has an excellent record of tracking down polluters and our legal services branch is outstanding in prosecuting environmental offenders. Together they have set a national record.

The report shows a 30% increase in the number of convictions in 1991 compared to 1990, a 400% increase between 1985 and 1991 in both the numbers of convictions obtained and prosecutions initiated, and a total of \$2,575,000 in fines from 485 convictions in 1991. Contrast this with 1985-86: less than \$667,000 in fines.

Judges are also making increased use of creative sentences. One company was required to establish environmental scholarships worth \$30,000 at a university after an oil spill. This was in addition to a fine. Other companies have been stripped of profits or required to set up trust funds and training programs. Another trend is that directors are being held personally liable for the environmental consequences of their companies' activities.

Offences Against the Environment shows why Ontario leads all Canadian jurisdictions in investigating and prosecuting environmental offences. I am very proud of our record. With the release of this report, the Ontario government is serving notice that our environment will not be held ransom to the short-term interests of a few.

We would be wise to remember that in the long run it is the environment which will judge our actions, and that judgement will be harsher than anything the courts can hand out.

LIQUOR REGULATIONS

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I would like to inform members of the Legislature of upcoming changes to Ontario's liquor licence regulations. By setting out a consistent, sensible and fair approach to the sale and service of alcohol in sports stadiums in Ontario, these changes will bring Ontario's liquor licensing policies into the 1990s.

For many years the sale and service of liquor has been prohibited in Ontario sports stadiums. With the arrival of the Toronto Blue Jays, the government of the day made an exception to the regulations to permit the sale of beer during Blue Jays baseball. Further exceptions were made on an ad hoc, case-by-case basis. Today six stadiums in Ontario have licences to sell alcohol to spectators. They are allowed to sell only beer and alcohol products with less than 5% alcohol, and only during professional baseball,

football and soccer events. This is an unfair and discriminatory policy.

Under the regulations I am announcing today, all sports stadiums in Ontario will be eligible for a liquor licence as long as they meet established criteria. To be eligible, a stadium must have permanent and fixed-tiered seating and it must be home to a professional sports team or players that hold live sports events on a regular or seasonal basis. This, by the way, does include horse racing. The type of sporting event must be pre-approved by the Ontario Liquor Licence Board.

While most professional sports will be eligible, sports involving motor vehicles and sports where a majority of the participants and/or spectators are under 19 years of age will not be eligible for a licence.

A written resolution by the municipality in which the stadium is located will be a mandatory requirement for licensing. Members of the community can express any concerns they may have at the local level through their municipal council.

The new regulations will permit the sale and service of wine in addition to beer and coolers and will require stadium public service advertisements to promote the responsible use of alcohol.

The six stadiums already licensed have reported few social or enforcement problems related to alcohol. The new regulations will ensure that these same high standards continue to be met by newly licensed facilities. In addition, stadiums will be encouraged to work with their local communities on responsible drinking public education strategies.

The changes to liquor licensing regulations were developed in consultation with facility owners and managers, professional sports teams, unions, the police, government agencies and public interest organizations. We also worked closely with the Addiction Research Foundation.

I think all members will agree that these changes are long overdue. They represent a sensible and socially responsible approach to the sale, service and consumption of beverage alcohol in this province.

The new regulations will come into force by the end of this month.

AGRICORP

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): Later this afternoon I will be introducing a bill named the Agricorp Act. This legislation will create a crown agency named Agricorp to administer the government's crop insurance, income stabilization and other safety net programs. We are proposing that Agricorp have its own board of directors reporting directly to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, that the board of directors, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, be responsible for operations and that the minister continue to be responsible for policy directions.

The board will have strong representation from the farming community. In this way Ontario producers will benefit from more direct control of the programs and a more efficient operation.

In keeping with our belief in maintaining close local ties, Agricorp offices will move to Chatham, the heart of Ontario's farm land.

The idea of an agency to deliver safety net programs has been around for a long time. The prairie provinces have had similar agencies since the mid-1960s and Quebec's agency has been successfully operating for a decade. Here in Ontario the farming community and others have already been consulted and have expressed their support for such an organization.

The welfare of current employees of these programs will continue to be a top priority for my ministry.

The creation of Agricorp is another example of how this government is committed to working together with producers and others to ensure the long-term economic health of our farming community.

RESPONSES

LIQUOR REGULATIONS

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): While I would support the initiatives by the minister today to make changes to the Liquor Licence Act regarding stadium licensing, I would like to point out a few concerns we have with respect to the announcement she's made today.

I would hope the minister will ensure that she follows a list of requirements of criteria that were set out before regarding the new licensing arrangements—that is, to ensure that there's proper security, that servers have the proper training, that she make drink-free areas available under these new arrangements and that you stop serving the liquor before the end of the game in a certain amount of time that's required for that. I would also ask the minister to expand public education programs with respect to responsible drinking surrounding the establishments.

I have concerns with the fact that the LLBO is now required to pre-approve these sporting events. Shouldn't this really reside with the government to make that decision?

As well, I would also say that it's going to be difficult and somewhat inconsistent for the government to determine when there is a majority of people who are under the age of 19. What criteria will be used to make that assessment?

I'd also like to say to the minister that it's quite ironic that in this announcement her government would allow people to express their concerns at the local level through their municipal council about these changes but would not do this in the case of Sunday shopping. It did not allow the Sunday shopping local option and the ability of people to express their concerns locally with respect to that important issue but will do so with this. I find that very inconsistent and quite a bit ironic.

Let me finally say to the minister that while this is an initiative I support, I think there are other pressing matters that she could be behind with respect to changes that are required. The office of the Registrar General is in a mess; members of the Legislature can't get their birth certificates and people in the public have told you time and again that it's just simply falling apart up there. As well, some of the other things that she could be doing are with respect to consumer protection legislation. Bring those things forward.

Don't let your cabinet colleagues muzzle you on those important items. Bring them forward in the Legislature.

1410

AGRICORP

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): Mr Speaker, I'm pleased to hear the statement of the Minister of Agriculture and Food on the Agricorp Act and to respond to it.

This legislation was first introduced by the Liberals, by my colleague the member for Timiskaming, in the spring of 1990. What could possibly have taken the NDP so long to decide to reintroduce this legislation, a lengthy 18 months after being elected? What advantages have been lost by this lengthy, unnecessary delay?

If it has taken the NDP this long to decide to reintroduce a non-controversial piece of legislation, no wonder the minister's commodity loan program is still not up and running three long months after it was announced. As well, the other initiatives in the minister's agriculture investment strategy, to recycle rural savings, are still waiting to be implemented a month after they were announced and more than a year after they were recommended in the Hayes report. This legislation is an example of how long farmers have to wait: too long.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I rise in some amazement that the minister stands in her place and somehow cloaks herself in some sort of accomplishment. When you look at the numbers she presented today, without paying tribute to the fact that virtually every one of the increases she spoke about today resulted from the initiatives that were undertaken by the previous government, it is no surprise that she uses as her benchmark year 1985-86.

What is happening very clearly is that it is the initiatives taken by the former government that have come to fruition at this point in time. You fail to recognize that, Minister. I think it goes without saying that this was nothing more than an orchestrated attempt to create an impression today that you are doing something in the absence of any substantive action from your ministry.

I want to remind you, Minister, that you made some tremendous promises in the past, and what you're doing now is talking about increased prosecution. I want you to listen to these words and see if they have a familiar ring to them:

"We need action plans on pollution that require zero discharge of toxic chemicals into Ontario waterways....We support zero discharge of all toxic chemicals into the air and water by the year 2000."

There's no question that the reason you had that press conference this morning was because you needed to have some kind of orchestrated show that you are doing something when in fact you're not, Minister. You know you couldn't respond to questions put to you this morning about what had happened over the past year in terms of increases or decreases in environmental pollution and crimes. Minister, it is time for you to do something and not talk about past accomplishments.

AGRICORP

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): To the Minister of Agriculture and Food, thank you very much for finally bringing in Agricorp. I hope it doesn't take quite as long to get off the ground as the commodity loan program.

Had Agricorp been in place during the fiscal year 1990-91 I know it would have strongly supported that this government take up the net income stabilization account program and the \$12 million to \$15 million of federal money that would have been available to Ontario's agriculture. I just hope that the Premier and the cabinet really listen to these people because, as the minister said, they will be coming from the farming community, and not always listen to those people who suggested \$350 million. Show the priority: \$350 million to the Canadian Auto Workers at de Havilland—3,000 people. They got all that money and yet for agriculture they couldn't find the \$10 million to put in to get \$15 million out of the federal government.

I just hope that Agricorp is listened to and that it indeed has more power than the John Sewells, the Bob Whites, the Jack Laytons, the Dale Martins and the Ross McClellans and the rest of the pink socialist army around the Premier.

LIQUOR REGULATIONS

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I'd like to respond to the statement given by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. For the short time she's been here she has rarely given a statement on pieces of legislation. All she has given are statements with respect to regulations.

The member for Leeds-Grenville has been pushing this issue for months and months. You could have passed this months ago, but you waited and dithered around, trying to make decisions over there. Finally you've got around to listening to the member for Leeds-Grenville, who's been working very hard on pushing this subject around Ontario, particularly Maple Leaf Gardens. What is fair for the Dome should be fair for Maple Leaf Gardens, and it's taken all this time for you to get around to deciding this issue.

The only major criticism I can give—because we wholeheartedly support this; the member for Leeds-Grenville has been supporting it—is of, "Sports where a majority of the participants and/or spectators are under 19 years of age will not be eligible for a licence." These are professional teams you're speaking about. I don't know what this is going to apply to, professional T-ball games? I mean, I don't really know whether you're going to be taking a count at the door. It's all very silly. Why can't you make some legislation of substance in this House, Madam Minister?

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): It wasn't worthy to come into the House and talk about 57 dump sites in the GTA. It wasn't worth the minister's time to talk about the Crombie commission report on the waterfront. What we have today that is worth the time of the Minister of the Environment is to outline the convictions that

flowed from previous governments. I'm sleeping easy, knowing full well that we got this gentleman here for throwing a styrofoam cup out of his car window. That makes the people of Ontario feel good, Madam Minister. You're doing a job, let me tell you.

Madam Minister, where is your environmental bill of rights? That was a big promise you staked your career on. We haven't seen it. Where's the clean air program, Madam Minister? Did you forget these again? Is this something that slipped your mind for the past 21 months? How about the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement? You've had an opportunity to bring in a toughening of the rules and legislations on that. No, we haven't seen that either, Madam Minister.

Your bringing forward this particular announcement today is simply announcing the programs that have been in place where people have been charged, and you're suggesting that this is proving that your government is following its commitment on environmental issues that it dealt with and promised when it was in opposition. Let me just say this. You must be very thankful that your cheque from the Ministry of the Environment is directly deposited, because you must be embarrassed to cash it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Minister of Labour. It has been exactly one week now since the minister brought in his changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. At the time of presenting those proposals the minister said, "Why don't you just take your time and look at the legislation?" That's exactly what we've been doing over the past week. We've looked at the legislation. We've talked to people across this province. I can tell the minister that the concerns we and people across this province had are still there. In fact they're greater than they ever were before.

The main question we still hear is, what is the reason for bringing in this legislation? Why is the legislation needed? I ask the minister to tell the House once more, in face of the evidence that shows Ontario's labour relations are already good, that 95% of collective bargaining agreements are settled without a strike, why he felt this legislation was needed.

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I'm surprised that the Leader of the Opposition isn't aware enough of the Labour Relations Act and some of the problems that do exist out in the field to know that it hasn't been updated in 15 years and that we still have a confrontational approach, not a cooperative approach in this province.

Mrs McLeod: The minister has not yet provided us with a reason for bringing in the legislation, but let me reflect back to some of the statements we believe we've heard him make in the past.

One of his reasons seemed to be that his legislation would help to reduce violence on the picket line, but as we look more closely at these legislative proposals, we wonder if in fact the proposals might worsen picket line vio-

lence. One proposal would give managers and supervisors the right to refuse to do struck work.

Before this bill, managers could say to striking workers, "We don't have a choice," before crossing the picket line. Striking workers can understand that somebody may be required to do their job, but they may well be less understanding of a manager or supervisor who chooses to cross the picket line. Worse still, we wonder about the antagonism that arises during a strike that could last well beyond the conclusion of that dispute.

I would ask the minister if he could explain to us how giving managers and supervisors the right to refuse to cross picket lines will actually improve tempers during a strike. Is this provision not likely to lead to a legacy of costly divisions in the workplace, once the strike is settled?

1420

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'd like to simply tell the Leader of the Opposition that just because she doesn't agree with the reasons we've given for bringing in this legislation it doesn't mean that she's right and we're wrong. I'd be very interested in knowing if the Leader of the Opposition would agree with bringing in replacement workers in a legal strike situation, like, for example, the Toronto Star.

Mrs McLeod: I'm not making judgements with my questions. This minister asked us to look at his legislation. We've looked at the legislation—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the leader take her seat for a minute, please.

The Leader of the Opposition with her final supplementary.

Mrs McLeod: I would stress to the minister that we have looked at the legislation, that we're raising questions of concern that come directly from the proposed changes that he's put before this House.

I seem to recall that another goal the minister has stated in the past is to enhance the collective bargaining process and to ensure that settlements will be arrived at at the negotiating table, recognizing that already 95% of collective bargaining agreements are settled at the negotiating table. We do see aspects of this legislation that are likely to do the opposite of enhancing the collective bargaining process and the assurance that there will be settlements at the table.

We think that first-contract arbitration may be an example of that. The government's proposal, as we understand it, will require an arbitrated settlement between a fledgling union and company management after 30 days in a strike or lockout position. That does not mean the workers even have to be on strike. To us this appears to mean that neither the union nor the management has to bargain seriously for that first contract. If you wait 30 days, the government will step in with arbitration to settle it for you.

I would ask the minister why he would propose first-contract arbitration in this way when the provision offers neither the employees nor the employer any incentive to resolve the contract.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: A 30-day period for a worker who's out on strike, particularly in a new unit, is a very

difficult and lengthy period of time. It seems to me that the minister should understand that a long, lengthy dispute is not one that leads to better labour relations in the province of Ontario.

Mrs McLeod: It was our understanding that you don't actually have to be on strike; it's 30 days in a strike position.

My second question is also for the Minister of Labour. It is our intention to continue to analyse this legislation and to look at the concerns that are being legitimately raised with the changes that are being proposed. Our overriding concern with these proposals is that this government really does not seem to care or has absolutely no idea how many jobs are going to be lost because of these proposals.

We've been asking this minister and this government for months to provide some detailed studies on the impact that this legislation will have on investment and on jobs. So far, all we've had is the reference to a costly four-page report that says it needs to be studied.

Over the past week, we've been doing our own consulting. We find there is considerable response, even in the course of a couple of days. These are the kinds of comments we're hearing. Here's a comment by an individual in Concord, Ontario, who says: "We were planning to expand this year, our fifth year in operation, but our plans are on hold. We're considering a move to the United States if these new laws become a reality." Here's one from somebody in Hamilton—very close to the minister's heart—"I know of businesses in Hamilton that will locate out of the province." They go on to say: "Hamilton just can't stand any more. The pity is that a once-mighty giant now slumps."

I ask this minister why he will not admit that this legislation is going to drive people out of the province. Does he simply continue to believe these small business people are just bluffing?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: No, the answer is that I simply don't believe the proposition the leader has put that this will cause the problems she's raising.

Mrs McLeod: In the absence of studies, in the absence of the minister's refusal to accept any evidence, we're just not sure what it is he's prepared to acknowledge. If the minister won't admit that he's driving people out of Ontario, I want to tell him about one company that is driving people out of Ontario; it's Allied Van Lines.

Allied Van Lines knows at first hand what this government is doing to Ontario, because this month alone its business has increased by 37%. It's good news for Allied Van Lines, but the sad reality is that practically all of this increase is due to people moving down to the United States. There is already a mass exodus out of this province.

Doesn't the minister think that, given this kind of evidence, he should at least have done an impact study of the effects of his legislation, or is he simply prepared to take a chance on driving business out of the province?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: What I'm trying to do is assist business and labour to work the problems out together in a cooperative way in Ontario. I want to tell the leader that the long consultations we've conducted with over 300 groups were as good as any study in getting the views and

opinions of people and bringing their concerns to us in the ministry.

Mrs McLeod: Let me try to get the minister to focus then perhaps on one of the more vulnerable regions of this province. My colleague the member for Cornwall advises me that his community is under enormous pressure right now. The minister's well aware that Cornwall is about half an hour away from the Quebec border; it sits right along Highway 401, and 75% of the businesses in Cornwall's industrial park exist to supply Quebec-based industry. We are told that one of the reasons they were there to begin with is because of Quebec's anti-business labour legislation.

With this piece of legislation, the minister is wiping out one of Cornwall's only remaining competitive advantages. I ask the minister why he failed to carry out impact studies of the effect of this legislation on businesses in eastern Ontario. Will he not acknowledge that his proposals, taken as a whole, are much more difficult for business to work with than the legislation that currently exists in Quebec? Is he prepared to sacrifice eastern Ontario in the name of carrying out his political agenda?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I'm not prepared to sacrifice any part of this province in carrying out our political agenda. What we're trying to do is solve some of the problems we've had for a long, long time.

I can't help but go back to the figures on the firms we've lost. My colleague just happened to give me a little report here that shows in 1989, for example, 22 Ontario firms moved to Buffalo. In 1991 there were seven.

The Speaker: New question, third party. The member for Etobicoke West.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Minister—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The member for Etobicoke West has the floor. First question.

Mr Stockwell: My question is to the Minister of Government Services.

Interjections.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West.

Mr Stockwell: My question is to the Minister of Government Services, if you can bear with me, Mr Speaker. I am sure the minister is well aware of what has been described as a bizarre story involving his ministry and a \$67,000 contract to install siding and insulation at a Picton housing project, awarded last July to North Country Renovations of Kingston township.

1430

For the benefit of other members, could the minister confirm the facts as reported by Cy Chapman in the Heritage newspaper: that prior to this contract, the biggest job ever done by North Country was a \$7,300 job; that the job was in fact work done on your home, Mr Minister; that you paid for that job on July 19, 1991, one day after the Picton tender closed on July 18; that the North Country bid was \$9,000 lower than the next closest competitor; that for

some reason the 10% bid security or performance bond required under your ministry's policy was not collected in this case; that North Country's reputation in the community was so poor that suppliers were reluctant to provide supplies on credit and the company had to resort to a trust agreement to secure supplies; that the company never completed the contract and it was in fact thrown off the job site because it didn't have liability insurance or workers' compensation coverage; that on December 12 the president of North Country wrote you personally at your Queen's Park office about this matter; that then on December 23 your ministry, again in violation of its own policy, released \$13,000 of government money directly to North Country, which broke the trust agreement and left suppliers high and dry?

Minister, could you confirm these facts and would you not admit that the circumstances surrounding this contract demand a full and complete and independent inquiry?

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services): I assure you, Mr Speaker, and through you the House and the member, that I had absolutely nothing to do with the tendering or awarding of the contract of which the member speaks. My staff has thoroughly examined the contract and have assured me that it was publicly tendered and awarded in accordance with the ministry's procedures.

Mr Stockwell: You're suggesting it was awarded according to ministry procedures. Let me just remind you, Mr Minister, that no 10% bid bond was supplied when they bid on the contract. They didn't have workers' compensation coverage. They didn't have liability insurance. You had to release the money through a trust. Is that part of your ministry's policies, Mr Minister?

Further, could you acknowledge that your ministry's performance in this matter has been sloppy at best? Even the president of North Country has said, "I honestly believe they shouldn't have accepted my bid." But not only was the bid accepted, taxpayers' money was released, because as you yourself put it, somebody played Santa Claus. For all you know, and all we know, somebody over there might also be playing the Easter bunny and the tooth fairy. Father's Day is coming up; maybe somebody else will get a cheque.

Mr Minister, you said in that same article you intended to get to the bottom of this, but why don't you ask the Provincial Auditor to come in and help you get your Santa Claus under control?

Hon Mr Wilson: In that same article that you quote, sir, you'll also see that the gentleman you have quoted here said that I had nothing to do with the situation, as he saw it himself. What was sloppy was the article itself. It was full of unconnected circumstance, a few manufactured coincidences, and it has no validity whatsoever. Even the writer of the article, within that article, said I had no connection with the problems.

Mr Stockwell: Mr Maguire of North Country Renovations has said he never told you he had a contract tendered to your ministry during the time he was working on your home, but according to the Heritage report, you said you knew that North Country Renovations had a contract

with your ministry but you did not see any problem with these circumstances. Mr Minister, are you serious? You didn't see any problem, when you knew this tender was taking place? They didn't post a 10% bid bond; they didn't qualify for workers' compensation; they didn't have any insurance liability. Mr Minister, you knew about this contract. Clearly \$13,000 was released when it shouldn't have been because Christmas was coming. Are you serious in suggesting you don't see anything wrong with this?

Hon Mr Wilson: I'll tell you what I am serious in saying: that it's not my job as Minister of Government Services to know the internal workings of every tender that passes through my ministry.

Furthermore, are you suggesting, sir, that because someone in this House, any side, any party, has work done by anybody who works also for the government, we should specify in some kind of contract that the person cannot do dealings with the government? Furthermore, the gentleman did not tell me, as he stated, that he had a contract with MGS.

Mr Stockwell: He's lying.

Hon Mr Wilson: No, he's not lying. He's telling the truth. One of his workmen told my wife that he had a contract with it. My wife told me, and I still see no difficulty with someone doing work for a citizen of this country, also for MGS.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): My question is to the government House leader, who also serves as the deputy Deputy Premier and minister at large in the province. This afternoon you have made it quite clear you intend to proceed with debate on your unilateral rule changes without calling any other legislation, especially the Sunday shopping legislation that your Premier indicated about a week ago you'd be proceeding with forthwith.

We can only speculate as to the reason you're not proceeding with Sunday shopping legislation here today. Is it because you want the rules changed so you can have your rules to deal with your controversial labour legislation or is it because you're not sure of where your backbench members are coming from on Sunday shopping legislation? What is the real reason?

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I think it's very clear, and I've made the point to the House leader for the third party and the House leader for the official opposition many times, that the rules of this Legislature need to be changed to be brought in order with the rules of other legislatures in Canada. We're proceeding with rule changes because this place has got to—

Interjections.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): There were a number of bills, but you just don't want to call them.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, I find it interesting that the opposition parties want to deal with legislation now that we've brought in rule changes. They didn't want to do that for months around this place. Now all of a sudden they want to cooperate.

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): There is tremendous confusion in this province concerning the issue of Sunday shopping and a tremendous amount of uncertainty. Owners of franchise outlets who have contacted me and who have indicated they are staying closed are now being told by their franchisors that they must open on Sundays or mail in the keys to their shops, because they are not covered by your proposed legislation in the same way as store owners in malls. This has been confirmed by the Solicitor General's staff, who in response to a phone call from a franchisee said, "Yes, we agree, you're not covered and you could be served with a breach of contract, but if you take it to court you could probably win."

Unfortunately, many of these franchisees are small, family business owners. They have neither the financial resources nor the time to endure expensive and lengthy court battles. What do you intend to do to resolve the situation for these franchise owners as soon as possible?

Hon Mr Cooke: The specific aspects of Sunday shopping legislation that the member might want to ask about would probably be more appropriately asked of the Solicitor General.

I can tell the member, as I have indicated to the House leader for the third party, that we will get back to the legislative agenda of this place when the rules motion is dealt with in the Legislature so that we can deal efficiently, not just with Sunday shopping but with a whole host of legislation that this government feels is important for the people of the province.

Mr Eves: How can you believe anything that comes out of this government's mouth? We had the Premier in here about a week ago saying, "We've got to deal expeditiously with this matter of Sunday shopping," and, "My colleagues are going to have a free vote on the issue of Sunday shopping so people in the province know where they stand." There's all kinds of uncertainty out there, as my colleague has more than demonstrated, with respect to the effects of Sunday shopping legislation.

Assuming that what the Premier said is correct and that there is going to be a free vote, there's absolutely no assurance whatsoever that legislation will pass. Why won't you do the right thing for the people of Ontario? Stand up and deal with Sunday shopping, get it behind you, face the issue head on, have a free vote and everybody in the province will know where they stand, instead of your unilateral, dictatorial rule changes.

Hon Mr Cooke: Again, I find it very interesting. The third party now wants to deal with legislation. It was only a week ago—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Parry Sound.

Hon Mr Cooke: It was only a week ago that we sat in this Legislature and we couldn't even get to orders of the day because the third party stalled the whole afternoon by playing procedural games in the House with introductions of bills and all the other games it played last Thursday.

That was a clear indication that this place needs to be brought in line with other legislatures in Canada so that we can deal efficiently with legislation. The games the Con-

servatives played last Thursday and during the budget a year ago showed clearly that this place has to change and the rules have to change.

1440

LEGAL AID

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): My question is for the minister responsible for women's issues. Twice over the past week I have asked the minister if she is standing up for the women of this province who are upset with her government's policy and plans to bring in legal aid family law clinics and deny women the right to choose their own lawyer. This government seems bound, bent and determined to remove the right of choice from women, whether it be our right to choose our own child care or our right to choose our own lawyer.

The minister has claimed that many women's groups are in favour of the government's proposed changes, but I have today letters from prominent women's groups across the province that have indicated they are opposed to what the government is doing. I'd like to share the names of some of those organizations: the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, Rosewood Shelter for Women and Their Children, Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto, Women in Transition, Metro Toronto Committee Against Wife Assault, Lanark County Interval House and Sexual Assault Centre, Family Service London, Sexual Assault Centre London, London Second Stage Housing, the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse and, finally, one the minister is most familiar with, the London Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic.

Minister, would you please share with this House exactly what women's groups are in favour of your proposed changes, which remove the right of women to choose?

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister Responsible for Women's Issues): For a number of years a number of women's groups in the province—the one that I think of most often is one from the Kingston area—have suggested that because of the inability of women to access civil lawyers, so few of whom are prepared to accept the tariffs that are currently available through the legal aid plan, they would like to see us as a government try a clinic that would specifically deal with women's issues.

I worked, for example, with the community legal services at the University of Western Ontario in London on a joint scheme with the London Battered Women's Advocacy Clinic on the whole issue of restraint orders. There are a number of reasons why it would be prudent for us to examine the possibility of clinics, as long as we ensure that the choice of lawyers is also available. The Attorney General has made it very clear that part of his proposed reform is to improve the tariffs for legal aid in the civil law area. We believe very strongly that this will increase choice, not end it, as is assumed by the letters, which I of course have also received. They assume that a clinic would be imposed and women would not be able to choose their own lawyer. That is not the intention of the change.

Ms Poole: The minister mistakes the issue. The issue is that this government is proposing that these family law legal aid clinics replace the right of a woman to get a

certificate for legal aid and choose her own lawyer. That is the proposal and that is what these groups are objecting to. It is the job of this minister in cabinet to defend the rights of women. Time and time again we've heard this government's self-laudatory congratulations on the fact that there are 10 women in cabinet. I would like to know whether you stood up for women in the legal aid family law issue. There are only two scenarios possible. Either you or the women in cabinet did not stand up in cabinet for the right of a woman to choose, or you thought you did fight for choice for women and you lost. Which is it, Madam Minister? Are you gutless or are you toothless?

Hon Mrs Boyd: Neither, if that is the question. Am I gutless or toothless? Neither. The women in cabinet stand up, as do all our cabinet colleagues, for choice for women all the time. We simply disagree with the opposition. We see this particular policy not as ending choice. The whole issue is to allow a different kind of legal representation for women, and we are insistent upon improving the legal aid certificate process as well.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Minister, on May 1 you announced you were going to spend \$5 million on six pilot projects to provide opportunity planning to social assistance recipients. The purpose of the program was to help social assistance recipients find employment and live independently.

The Lakeshore Area Multi Service Project, otherwise known as LAMP, which is in Etobicoke, has been something that has been worked on very diligently by the Minister of the Environment for the past number of years. LAMP submitted a proposal to your ministry that would add up to \$1 million in four years; \$782,000 was in salaries alone. It has been short-listed.

Let me quote from LAMP's proposal: "It was an opportunity to encourage and support approximately 150 social assistance recipients in becoming involved in their community as helpful neighbours, participants in community events, as members of organizations, as volunteers."

Minister, do you really feel this is an appropriate use of taxpayers' dollars? Certainly this is not the purpose of opportunity planning.

Hon Marion Boyd (Minister of Community and Social Services): The opportunity planning requests for proposals went out and we had 194 from a number of different communities across the province and several proposals from quite a few of the communities in Ontario.

We asked for proposals of a number of different kinds. Some were particularly geared to get people into the workforce and some were particularly geared to those who might not be able to join the workforce but who could benefit from greater community opportunities in terms of life skills.

I have not read all the applications. We had a community advisory group that, together with representatives from the ministry, vetted the 194 proposals. They did come up with a short list of under 25. I'm not sure of the exact number, because there was some question about whether

some would be joined together. Those groups were asked to give further details.

Obviously, when we come to the final decision about these projects, the value for dollar has to be a particular concern to us. Opportunity planning needs to be available to all our clients, and there are a number of different forms it can take. This is an experimental kind of program to look at how we can best assist all people who are recipients of social assistance.

Mr Stockwell: This is \$1 million over four years, and to quote, "They have been short-listed." First, for the \$1 million, \$782,000 goes into paying salaries. Second, the proposal they're putting in, which you people have short-listed and I assume consider to be worthy, talks about the need to belong, participate, be involved and feel good about oneself.

The money crunch is very obvious in this province. Taxes are going up, your deficit's getting higher and money is being wasted by this government. Do you really believe that \$1 million given to LAMP and \$782,000 spent on salaries to make people belong or participate in community events is a worthy expenditure, considering the very difficult and tough times the people in this province are having in just getting by?

Hon Mrs Boyd: I am aware that LAMP has been short-listed. I'm also aware that the member has consistently opposed LAMP throughout his political career, so it's not surprising that he's opposing it here in this House.

I also need to make it clear to the member that many social assistance recipients find it difficult to participate in their community, whether that's in the workforce or just in terms of normal quality of life, because of self-esteem issues. The major issue in terms of people being able to be successful in looking for work is that issue.

The member is quite right. When we are talking about this kind of work, it is labour-intensive work, and salaries are always going to be the highest proportion of any of these projects, so that is not surprising. However, the member can be well assured that part of the issue for us is the greatest value for dollar. That will be looked at by the advisory committee that makes the final choice.

1450

GARMENT INDUSTRY

Mr Rosario Marchese (Fort York): My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Many members of the Legislature will know that my riding is home base for a significant portion of Ontario's garment manufacturing industry. In fact, this industry is still the largest single industrial employer in the city of Toronto.

I recently met with a group of Portuguese Canadians in my constituency office, and they want to know what our government is doing to ensure that Ontario's apparel manufacturing industry, which is vital to our economy and has suffered under the Canada-US free trade agreement, is not jeopardized by a North American free trade deal, a deal that many Ontarians are opposing vigorously.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): As the member will know, our government has always had great concerns about negotiating regional trade agreements dominated by the US agenda. Nothing illustrates it more clearly than this example in the apparel negotiations, where the US continues to push for more restrictive rules of origin, actions that place the Canadian apparel workers and industry manufacturers at great risk.

I can tell you I've made our views known to Mr Wilson that the US proposals are completely unacceptable, and we've urged the federal government to continue to push the US on this issue and not allow the Americans to play off the textile industry versus the apparel industry. That's completely unacceptable to us.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Minister of Labour and it has to do with jobs. You were the person who was going to speak for the working people of this province. You were going to be the person who ensured they had jobs. Since you became Minister of Labour, every single day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, 400 more people go into the unemployment ranks. Every single day since you've been Minister of Labour, we've seen unemployment go up by 400 a day. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology talks about the Ford announcement that created 400 jobs. Every day that you've been Minister of Labour, we've seen unemployment go up by 400 jobs.

I want to know directly from you, Minister of Labour: What have you done to create jobs in Ontario—you, the Minister of Labour?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I want to say that the situation we faced in terms of plant closures, shutdowns and moves has been a disturbing one—I would hope a disturbing one for all members of this House. But it's a situation that started before we took office. It has continued. We have done what we can in terms of trying to set in place wage protection, which has given an awful lot of money that workers would not otherwise have received. We are working on training programs extensively. But more fundamental than that, we are also trying to change the basic approach in this province to one of cooperation instead of confrontation so that we can make a more viable and productive society for us.

Mr Phillips: You're supposed to be the Minister of Labour. I tell you that you are known across the province now as the Minister of Unemployment; that's how you're known. Every single day that you've been minister we've seen 400 more people on unemployment. Every three days in this province another plant closes. Seventy per cent of those workers who are laid off because of plant closures are unionized workers, people who assumed that you would look out for their interests, people who supported you, who thought that you as Minister of Labour would actually do some of the things you said you would do when you were in opposition.

I want to know very clearly from you, Minister of Labour: Give us the things you're going to bring to this House over the next few months to actually create jobs. I

understand dealing with the unemployed, but they're looking for you, Minister of Labour, to bring forward proposals to create jobs. I want to know the two, three or four proposals that you're going to bring to this House that we will see creating jobs.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I want to tell the member that I've already outlined to him some of the things that we're trying to do in Ontario. The one thing I can tell him that we won't do is call an early election to get out of the responsibility of the mess you put the province in.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the member for York Centre to come to order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I again ask the member for York Centre to please come to order.

PROTECTION OF IN-CARE RESIDENTS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship, with responsibility for employment equity, the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat, multiculturalism, the disabled, human rights and seniors—a very busy minister.

In the last election, Minister, you campaigned with your leader very vigorously and the Agenda for People referenced your concern for the quality-of-care standards at rest and retirement homes and vulnerable seniors who are living in those accommodations. That was probably precipitated by the very unfortunate but sensational death of Joseph Kendall in November 1987 in one of these unregistered residences north of Orillia.

Minister, your government campaigned on this being an important issue. You stood in this House on November 29, 1990, and said, and I'm quoting from Hansard, "I am requesting an initial assessment be completed after three months," and then after six months you would ask that final recommendations be made available—this is back in November of 1990—and then your government would take immediate action.

Madam Minister, that was a year and a half ago. Why is it that you've not brought forward the Lightman commission report and recommendations when it was so terribly important to you at election time and so terribly important to you a year and a half ago?

Hon Elaine Ziemba (Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Human Rights, Disability Issues, Seniors' Issues and Race Relations): Yes, it still is terribly important to this government and to myself today as well. Mr Lightman has completed his report and we will be tabling it very shortly. He required a bit more extensive time, because, as you probably know, this issue is very complex, very diverse, and the province itself is very diverse, so he requested some additional time. But I'll be very pleased in a very short time to be able to table this report. I'm sure at that point you'll be very interested in asking more specific questions on the report itself.

Mr Jackson: Madam Minister, although I did not speak to Mr Lightman directly, a reporter within the press gallery has advised me that from her conversation with Mr Lightman, he gave you the report in December of 1991—

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): December.

Mr Jackson: Thank you. December of 1991; we'll do a duet. Mr Lightman was told in February of this year that, "Yes, we've had the report, but we've been delayed because it's in French translation." He was subsequently calling about his report and was told in March that it was delayed in printing. Madam Minister, he was then told that it would be tabled in May.

How can we get a sense that you're committed to the seniors and vulnerable citizens in this province when your throne speech doesn't reference the word "seniors" once in it? This is Seniors' Month, but there have been no announcements from your government or any support for seniors as a policy statement from your government.

The least you could do is bring out the Lightman report, for those seniors who are awaiting it and need the appropriate legislation to respond to, that you've been sitting on and your government's been sitting on since December of last year. He didn't need extra time. Why do you need extra time to delay the recommendations of the Lightman report?

1500

Hon Ms Ziemba: First of all, I must correct the honourable member across the way, because—

Mr Jackson: You are not correcting me; you are correcting a reporter in the press gallery.

Hon Ms Ziemba: Now the honourable member is saying that he's correcting the reporter in the press gallery. Quite frankly, I don't see any reporters up there saying that they have need for corrections. I think they should speak for themselves and perhaps the member would like to speak for himself as well.

What I will do, though, is say that Mr Lightman had not completed his report in December 1991 and needed an extension of time, which we granted because this is a very serious issue. We realized that with his expertise, with his knowledge and with his information, if he required that extra time we wanted to make sure the report was complete and that it addressed all the areas of interest.

As I said to the member across the way, and I'm rephrasing it very carefully, we will table the report very soon in the Legislature. I'm very pleased that it will certainly bring about a lot of interest. I'm very pleased he's interested in this issue. I'm sorry that in 1981 and 1982, when there was deinstitutionalization in this province, this member opposite and that party opposite did not make sure there were proper requirements for people who were thrown out on the street. Then I wouldn't have to worry now, today, 10 years later, to make sure that these things are put in place.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): I've got a very tough question for the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the seven landfill sites in Durham East. Many of my constituents live near these landfill sites, and it would be

an understatement to say they're very upset with me and about the process. I told them the process is fair and that fairness will prevail, and in the end I can live with fairness. But despite this they've asked me what went wrong with Whitevale and what went wrong with Kirkland Lake. They say: "The process under SWISC was under way. Why was it stopped and what was wrong with it?" That's my question, Madam Minister.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): Let me say that I certainly understand the anxiety and concern of the member's constituents and those of the constituents of all members who have found that the Interim Waste Authority has identified landfill sites in their community. It is not an easy process and it is not easy for the people who are concerned. But I can undertake to the member that it will be fair and that it will be open.

In response to his specific question as to what was wrong with the previous process, let me say again that the previous process had completely departed from the normal way in which waste management planning was done, needs to be done and must be done. The process that was set up under SWISC, the Solid Waste Interim Steering Committee, which had been put in place by the previous government, sought communities to be willing hosts for GTA waste anywhere across Ontario. This was unprecedented. It opened up the entire province to the waste from the greater Toronto area and it meant that every community was vulnerable to this. It was also untested. There was no guarantee. There was in fact a great deal of doubt that the criterion for a willing host was one that an Environmental Assessment Board would ever accept. It was a very flawed process and very dubious of success.

Mr Mills: Madam Minister, some people say you've created special rules for the Interim Waste Authority. How is this process being followed by the Interim Waste Authority as compared with the municipalities?

Hon Mrs Grier: Municipalities always have and will continue to begin waste management planning by establishing the boundaries within which they will seek disposal sites, composting sites and what kind of waste reduction they will do. The establishment of those boundaries, the time frame within which they will do their planning, is a standard way of approaching the search for a landfill site.

The Interim Waste Authority has been directed by legislation to have the boundary of its search, the boundaries of the greater Toronto area and the 20-year period for which it has to find a disposal site consistent with that chosen by many communities as they begin their work process.

Let me say to the member that the Interim Waste Authority is having a much more open and consultative process than any other waste management master plan. I know the member's constituents will take full advantage of that. I depend on them to do that because it is their participation that is going to ensure it is the kind of fair, open and non-political process it has to be if it is to succeed before the Environmental Assessment Board.

VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the recurring nightmare the general public, as well as our MPPs' offices, is facing with respect to dealing with the office of the registrar general.

It's been over a year since the office relocated to Thunder Bay. Since that time the minister has offered up a number of excuses as to why the registrar general's office is backlogged. She's claimed inexperienced staff and computer system difficulties. The minister's latest shift of the blame goes to MPPs' offices, which, according to the March 5 memo she sent out, are overwhelming the office with routine requests. Consequently, she asks that we refrain from assisting our constituents except in emergency situations.

I'll respond to that by saying the reason we have emergency situations is that they're created by the unacceptable delays at the ORG itself. I've written to the minister on numerous occasions over the past few months about the problems at the office of the registrar general and, while I've received these little pieces of paper trying to give me a reasonable response, I have yet to see any tangible improvements in the service.

I have little other alternative than to ask the minister today why she won't demonstrate that she is capable and competent as a manager and get to the bottom of the mess at the office of the registrar general.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I think the reason we have emergency situations is because of the decision to move such a vital public service agency to a new location.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Don't keep blaming it on that. That's ridiculous.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mrs Caplan: That's ridiculous.

The Speaker: Would the member take her seat, please. Minister.

Hon Ms Churley: Having said that, I have acknowledged that there have been problems at the ORG. I'm not happy about it. I do not accept the delays and I'm working to improve it. In fact, as I said recently, the situation has improved and I continue to work in every possible way I can to make those improvements because I recognize what an inconvenience it is for the public out there.

In terms of the request to members to ask for specific help only in emergency situations, that related to the fact—and you're quite right, there are a lot of emergencies because of the backlog—that some MPPs were actually asking for special consideration for their constituents who were not in emergency situations. Therefore, those people, because of their special status as MPPs, were jumping the queue. We don't think that was fair. There is a problem and we're trying to be as fair and equitable as possible in terms of the way we deal with that.

Mr Cordiano: It's not just MPPs' offices that are frustrated beyond belief with the office of the registrar general. It's even more important that as of April 1992 children's aid societies across Ontario were still waiting

for over 600 outstanding requests for verification of live births, some dating as far back as February 1990, and 89 adoptions have been delayed due to major problems with documentation being received from the office of the registrar general. This is more than a minor inconvenience. The lives of adoptive families, adult adoptees and crown wards are being put on hold for anywhere from six months to two years because of the significant delays.

The minister's lack of concrete action is a real insult to all Ontarians. I ask the minister today to get to the bottom of this mess, to do something about it, to be a competent manager of this office, to get to the bottom of the mess, to do something with respect to her position as minister.

1510

Hon Ms Churley: As I already said, I am getting to the bottom of it and have been working very hard on a mess that I still say was created by those people across the floor. They have to accept that responsibility. The mess will be cleaned up, but I can assure you I am at the bottom of it and things will improve.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon Ms Churley: Mr Speaker, if they'd like to have an answer, I'm ready to answer the question. This is a difficult problem that affects all of us as members in our ridings. We all have to cooperate in a way that we can make this better, and that is what I have asked the members to do, work with me to try to improve the situation. That was one of many solutions I am finding to try to deal with the problem, and I hope they will cooperate with that.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Ms Churley: Another thing that I have been doing is meeting with client groups and focus groups to talk about legislative changes that should be made and could have been made years ago—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): No wonder the population is going up. You don't know about it.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Ms Churley: —that will in fact help improve things. There are a variety of things that can be done and will be done, and I ask you, instead of laughing, to try to cooperate with me and with all of us to make the situation better for your constituents.

EDUCATION STREAMING

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, this week the Premier's adviser on race relations made some recommendations that will very directly affect your ministry. The one I'd like to draw to your attention is the one with regard to revision of curriculum at every level of education so that it fully reflects the profound multicultural changes in Ontario's society. The recommendation goes on to include the elimination of streaming in the school system.

Mr Minister, I'm absolutely sure that you're aware of the first report of the select committee on education, where the recommendation to the ministry states that you move to reduce streaming but that it be accompanied by other measures such as smaller class sizes, in-service programs for teaching destreamed classes and mentoring, which I think is extremely important in this instance, individualized instruction and remedial programs.

My question is this: How do you plan to rearrange your global budget in order to move these dollars towards these necessary measures, and are you still insisting, given all the work that has to be done, on an implementation date of September 1993?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I think the member and I have had at least one other exchange in the House on this issue, but I'm happy to be able to add to the comments that I've provided to her and to other members in this House before on the question of streaming.

Although she did, I think, relate the question to some of the other comments that were made in the report by Stephen Lewis, let me just say I found the comments that were made in the report with respect to education to be quite helpful and ones which we are looking at very seriously. Indeed some of the indications that I've given in this Legislature with respect to actions around anti-racism are ones that are very consonant with the approach that was taken in the report.

Specifically on the question of what we are doing to prepare for the destreaming of grade 9, as I've indicated already in this House, we understand that it will require some additional work that will have to be done with respect to preparation for teachers, such as curriculum documents. I'm not convinced that it requires the huge expenditures of additional funds the member suggests, but we know that some additional funds will be required. It's our sense that given the expectations we have for September 1993, which is the next stage in that process, we believe we will be ready to deal with the expectations we will have for our teachers and that they will be prepared appropriately for what we will set for them as expectations for September 1993.

Mrs Cunningham: My question had to do with two things: the numbers of resources necessary to make these very important programs work and the time it takes to write the appropriate curriculum, to set up the appropriate program, to work with communities so we can get the cooperative part of these programs there for students who are looking for jobs, technical education and training and work experience, and the third part, the training of the teachers.

I'm going to go back to the minister with regard to something he just said in his response. He stated he's not certain that the number of resources I mentioned—and by the way, they're not my words. These words come from the first report of the select committee on education. They are its words. I'm very careful to put that into context. I believe these resources are necessary, and that if you try to do it without them, it won't work.

Mr Minister, my question still stands: How do you plan to rearrange your global budget?

Hon Mr Silipo: Obviously we are looking at the question of budget and what we can do over the next few years as we look at the longer-range changes in education financing, as the member well knows.

The point I want to make is that I don't believe the solution with respect to the destreaming initiative lies solely in the area of finances. While we recognize that some additional dollars will be required, we also recognize that a great deal of the change will need to come about and can come about with some very serious work done both in the area of curriculum changes and in the area of preparation of our teachers. It's in those two areas that I can assure the member we are spending a lot of our efforts in making the necessary preparations. In fact, I hope to be able to give some public indication of some further work we've done in that respect before the House rises.

CHARITABLE GAMING

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Organizations like the Ontario Head Injury Association have been lobbying members of this Legislature for quite some time with respect to the sale of Nevada tickets. I know we've heard as much from the member for Welland-Thorold on several occasions. They sell those tickets in communities where they do not have branch offices.

In the current fiscal climate, charities that depend on this form of fund-raising are facing incredible uncertainty. United Ways across the province are way under budget in terms of their fund-raising. All charities are facing really strong constraints. What are you doing, Madam Minister, to address this issue and to help these organizations maintain the valuable services they provide to our communities and our constituents?

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): First of all, I'd like to thank members from all sides of the House for bringing this issue to my attention. I certainly recognize that the charitable organizations with a provincial mandate have needs that are not met by today's rules. I did go out and consult with the organizations that are affected by this. It took a little time, but I became quite concerned when I heard the members' concerns and I'm happy to say that I now have authorized revisions to the existing policy to give these organizations a single summary licence for all their locations. This should help organizations with their administration. Also, it will help the ministry to continue monitoring the charitable gaming marketplace, which is an important part of this as well.

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio): Mr Speaker, with the unanimous consent of all members, I rise to make a brief statement.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous agreement? Agreed.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio):

Miss Margaret MacKinnon, the daughter of the honourable member for Lambton, will be getting married today at 6 pm. On behalf of all the members of the House, we extend our congratulations and best wishes to the bride and groom. Margaret, Doug and Ellen, our thoughts are with you today.

PETITIONS

EDUCATION FUNDING

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition addressed to the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the ratepayers, parents, staff and students of the Metropolitan Separate School Board are concerned about the way in which Catholic education is funded by the Ontario government and Metropolitan Toronto.

"Although separate schools have been given the right to provide education to the end of grade 12 OAC, they were never given equal funding. For example, in 1991 a Catholic elementary school child in Metro was educated with 75% of the money spent on his/her public school counterpart and the Catholic high school student was allocated only 20% of the money spent on his/her public school counterpart.

"These differences represent a shortfall of \$1,678 per student at the elementary level and \$2,502 at the high school level, leaving the Metropolitan Separate School Board \$198 million short of its Metro public counterparts in total operating cost revenue for the same number of students.

"The BNA Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education and in keeping with this the province of Ontario supports two education systems from kindergarten to grade 12 OAC. Unfortunately, only 20% of residential taxes go into the separate school coffers. Unless the Catholic householder specifically elects to support the separate school system, his or her residential taxes go into the public school purse by default.

"By 1995, the pooling of corporate taxes that started in 1989 will be complete, but the separate schools will be entitled to only 20% of this money and not the 30% that one might expect. Unfortunately, the division of funds is based on residential assessment and not on student enrolment.

"We urge you to act now to restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I have attached my signature to this petition, which contains some 60 signatures.

1520

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have a petition here signed by more residents from my riding and it's to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas it is against the United Church of Canada's policy to indulge in any type of gambling, gambling casinos bring crime to a community, not everyone has the

self-control to limit their betting and low-income people will suffer from unwise use of their resources;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Be it resolved that the Toronto Conference of United Church Women do strongly object to the Ontario government's proposed legislation to promote offtrack betting, sports lotteries and gambling casinos."

PORNOGRAPHY

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I have two rather brief petitions signed by approximately 140 or 150 residents of Cambridge. The first to the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The 1991 federal Criminal Code section 163 is clear and concise in its definition of obscenity. Mr Robert Payne, chairman of the Ontario Film Review Board, is mandated to review films and implement the law. We support the action of Project P and reject any undermining of the law through personal interpretation."

ABORTION

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): The second petition:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas our society abhors violence, especially violence against women and children; and

"Whereas abortion is violence against women and children,

"We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to stop abortion in the province of Ontario."

I submit both of these petitions, Mr Speaker, to you.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Ron Eddy (Brant-Haldimand): I have a total of six petitions, all with identical wording, signed by a total of 103 citizens of Middlesex county:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendations of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

I have affixed my signature to the six petitions.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have been happy to add my name to this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): I have a petition from over 50 citizens of the county of Middlesex, including the town of Strathroy, the township of Adelaide and the townships of London and Delaware, who ask that Mr Brant's report be set aside. My constituents have said very clearly to their elected representatives that they would like the size of this annexation reduced so that agricultural land and the rural way of life in Middlesex may be preserved. I have signed my name to this petition.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have some petitions here to add to the many thousands that have come from Middlesex and the London area, and it is to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the report of Mr John Brant, arbitrator for the greater London area, has recommended a massive, unwarranted and unprecedented annexation by the city of London;

"Whereas the arbitration process was a patently undemocratic process resulting in recommendations which blatantly disregarded the public input expressed during the public hearings;

"Whereas the implementation of the arbitrator's report will lead to the destruction of the way of life enjoyed by the current residents of the county of Middlesex and will result in the remnant portions of Middlesex potentially not being economically viable,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislature of Ontario reject the arbitrator's report for the greater London area in its entirety, condemn the arbitration process to resolve municipal boundary issues as being patently an undemocratic process and reject the recommendation of a massive annexation of land by the city of London."

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I've got a petition here.

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel that it should be a priority of this government to release the report and take action to bring forward legislation on the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents with long-term leases and where they fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report on land-leased communities and to propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

I know that my colleague from Durham East, Gord Mills, also has a community like that in Wilmot Creek and he supports it as well. I affix my name.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition containing 197 names addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the current government is considering legalizing casinos in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in the racing industry; and

"Whereas studies show these proposals could affect some 50,000 jobs within the industry;

"Resolve that the government stop looking to casinos as a quick-fix solution to pay down the deficit."

I have affixed my name.

ABORTION

Mr Mike Farnan (Cambridge): I have another petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas children are our most valuable resource and our only link with the future; and

"Whereas the destruction of pre-born babies is against natural and divine law,

"We, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to stop funding abortions, to give expectant mothers pertinent information, to assist women with problem pregnancies through their pregnancy to the birth of their baby and to promote chastity among young people."

This petition has been signed by some 35 residents of the Cambridge community.

1530

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have a petition signed by about 1,000 residents of the city of Burlington.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, concerned citizens of Burlington, do not support Bill 38, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act in respect of Sunday Shopping, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To defeat the proposed Bill 38 by voting against it and thereby upholding the present laws on no Sunday shopping."

Or, as I like to say, it has my signature in respect to wide-open Sunday browsing laws in Ontario.

CHILD CARE

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have a second petition to the Parliament of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP Community and Social Services ministry is moving towards a universal, publicly funded child care system in the province; and

"Whereas the government's place in child care should be contained in the areas of licensing, monitoring and providing financial assistance to those families who need such assistance; and

"Whereas in these difficult financial times the government should not be providing capital funds to non-profit agencies when private sector ones are ready and able to provide the needed services; and

"Whereas the attempted elimination of private child care by the NDP administration is an attempt to remove the right to choice in child care,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the NDP government immediately reconsider and revoke its plans to eliminate private child care in the province of Ontario and so ensure the democratic right to choice in child care for all Ontario parents."

This petition is signed by several hundred residents and has my signature of support.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): My petition reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

It's signed by 46 individuals from Dundas, Puslinch township, Uxbridge and Stouffville, and I have affixed my signature.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I have numerous petitions here to add to the ones that have already been given in to this House. It's a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the province of Ontario is experiencing a severe economic recession;

"Whereas the placement of bilingual highway signs on Ontario's highways, without consultation and at a cost of more than \$4 million, represents a blatant misdirection of taxpayers' dollars which should be used to address the current pressing economic and employment needs of Ontario citizens;

"Whereas citizens of Ontario are increasingly being denied essential services, such as medical treatment, for lack of adequate funding;

"Whereas Bill 8, the French Language Services Act, does not mandate bilingual highway signs, leaving interpretation to the discretion of the Ontario Transportation minister, who, as the minister for francophone affairs, is empowered to grant exemptions under the act,

"We, the undersigned, do petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to resolve that the Ontario Transportation minister's directive to replace existing highway signs in Ontario with bilingual signs at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$4 million be revoked immediately."

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): I have two of the same petition. I guess they total about 800, and it is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses"—

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Independent? It is organized all over the province.

Mr Jackson: Minister of Housing, if you don't care to listen, they're in the communities of Grimsby—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member for Burlington South simply read the petition, please.

Mr Jackson: Thank you, Mr Speaker. But I was invited by the member to say where they came from.

The Speaker: All interjections are out of order, and I would ask the member to direct his statement of the petition to the Chair.

Mr Jackson: That was the ruling I was looking for. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

That is signed by about 850 from Burlington, Grimsby, Hamilton, Dorset and Agincourt. It has my signature of support.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BIKUR CHOLIM ACT, 1992

Mr Cordiano moved first reading of Bill Pr48, An Act respecting Bikur Cholim.

Motion agreed to.

AGRICORP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR AGRICORP

Mr Buchanan moved first reading of Bill 63, An Act to establish a Corporation to provide for Agricultural Insurance / Loi portant création d'une personne morale offrant de l'assurance agricole.

Motion agreed to.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I talked briefly about this earlier in the day. This is an important bill that I believe is long overdue. It has been proposed for a number of years and members from the opposite side have commented on that. The farming community has been consulted. This is something they very much like. It will allow this government and any future government to deal with long-term programs, crop insurance, safety net programs and income stabilization. It's something we hope to use and employ in the future, and I look forward to the support of members on all sides of the House for this piece of legislation.

1540

ORDERS OF THE DAY

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Resuming the adjourned debate on government notice of motion 7 on amendments to the standing orders.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I believe the honourable member for Renfrew North had the floor when we last met on this topic.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): When I was last addressing government notice of motion 7 I was just preparing to look at the particulars of the government package. I want to begin my remarks today by saying it is right and fitting that we should be resuming this debate today after our friend and colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton drew the attention of the House earlier today—I might add with the rather enthusiastic support of others, including the member for Welland-Thorold—to some of the frustrations and inadequacies of past practice.

I say again, it seems to me right and fitting, particularly for members of the majority party in the House today, that we should be resuming a debate in this place about the NDP's unilaterally imposed rule changes on this, the day our friend and colleague the honourable member for Victoria-Haliburton has asked us all to think about how we

might move forward in ways, in his case, to accommodate the role of independent members.

I was with a number of my colleagues in the House in the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly last week and at that time I made plain that I wholeheartedly support many of the initiatives contained in the private ballot item this morning, sponsored by the member for Victoria-Haliburton.

I would ask my colleagues this afternoon to join with me in a look at the specifics of government notice of motion 7. What is it that the NDP is unilaterally proposing to do by way of changing the rules of this House? I repeat that what we have here now is, for the first time in my experience, a unilateral move by a government party to change the standing orders. That is technically allowed, but it has been thought to be politically injudicious and there are many independent observers of this place who would never have imagined that the party to have moved forward with this kind of unilateral action vis-à-vis the changing of the rules of debate and practice in this House would be the NDP.

At any rate, Mr Speaker, I ask you and colleagues to look to the proposal set down by the government House leader. The first of the proposals concerns the parliamentary calendar. I should just say that I've had the opportunity largely because my colleague the member for Halton Centre has done the homework on this. The parliamentary calendar unilaterally proposed in government notice of motion 7 effectively reduces the number of sitting days by 12—three sitting weeks.

For members of the opposition that is interesting because it effectively eliminates 12 question periods. So in this particular motion the government is unilaterally proposing to reduce by something in the order of 12% the number of question periods that are available to members of the Legislature to exact accountability from the government.

My friends opposite have come to this Legislature over the last number of weeks and months saying that we believe it to be a hallmark of the NDP government that we are going to be more open and more accountable. I simply ask honourable members opposite and around me to realize that the first of the proposals unilaterally offered by the Bob Rae government is to reduce the parliamentary calendar by three weeks, to reduce by 12 days the number of sitting days and to eliminate 12 question periods.

Mr Daniel Waters (Muskoka-Georgian Bay): I can applaud that.

Mr Conway: My friend from Muskoka-Georgian Bay says he can applaud that; I'm sure some people will join him. I just simply want to tell honourable members that in these proposals there is a 12% to 13% reduction in the number of question periods afforded this House. I think that says something about the willingness of a government to face the music in this place.

Then we move on to that provision in the unilateral proposal tabled by the government House leader to recommend night sittings on Mondays and Tuesdays. I do not want to rethrash old straw. I apparently attracted some

anxiety the other day when I reminded honourable members that it was the NDP which in speech after speech through the 1970s and 1980s—I cited one from 1986 where Ross McClellan, the NDP House leader, argued that if we were to do anything in the interests of productivity, family life and general good sense it would be the elimination of night sittings. Mr McClellan went on to say that it was his view and presumably the view of the NDP that night sittings were really intended as part of the government agenda to get the government's business done. I never shared that view and I will say to my friends opposite, as a single person I don't have any difficulty if the House wants to sit every night of the week, but I can well understand how married members would find that difficult. That was the argument in part that was advanced all the time by the NDP.

I just simply want to say that in this particular motion we now have a fundamental reversal, an absolutely transparent contradiction of an NDP position around the working conditions in this place—namely, we ought not to sit at night for the reasons Mr Martel and Mr McClellan gave. I repeat those: It is counterproductive, it is anti-family and it really only facilitates the government.

What we have in government notice of motion 7 is not just a request for night sittings, but in fact there is no opportunity for the House or the Speaker on behalf of the House to pass any kind of judgement as to the advisability of night sittings. We have here in this particular standing order amendment proposed in this motion, the new standing order 9, a clear tilt in favour of executive mandate. Again, I find that interesting and it's a pattern that's repeated throughout much of the rest of this. There is no requirement in this new standing order 9 that there be any consideration other than the government's will and wish. Again, I find that an interesting deviation from past practice.

The next order of business dealt with in a substantive way in the proposals is the new 23a(a), which reads essentially that we're going to have time allocation and, except where otherwise indicated, there will be a 30-minute limit on speeches.

I want to say something that may surprise people and I think I hinted at this the other day: that I doubt if in this Parliament or in recent parliaments, with a couple of exceptions, there has been anyone who's been as willing to speak at length as I have myself. I understand how that can sometimes irritate people. I did it the other night on third reading of Bill 118, a bill about which I feel very strongly. So if there's anyone to whom or against whom this particular order is targeted, I would have to believe that it would be myself.

I am quite prepared to live by this rule. I have said previously that I can live with a 30-minute rule and I can live, quite frankly, with a number of the other allocations, because it seems to me that they are, in the main, what characterize—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Then show us, Sean. At quarter after we will be watching the clock.

Mr Conway: I will just come back to my friend. I quite agree, but I will say in digression, let there be no

confusion in the minds of my honourable friends as to what I think we have with this declaration of unilateral action.

Last Thursday we got two pieces of government business that are of a piece. We got Bill 40, An Act to amend the Ontario Labour Relations Act, a significant, long-awaited piece of highly controversial legislation, and we got delivered, quietly and silently to the Clerk's office on the same day, the companion piece, namely, the unilateral government rule change motion. This motion, I say to my friends opposite, has to be understood as part two of the labour relations strategy. This is the ramrod that is going to see this very controversial bill shoved down the throat of this Legislature and of this province.

I'm quite prepared to deal with rules in the ordinary fashion. I was reading the other day the sixth edition of Beauchesne, which, of course, concerns the rules and forms of the House of Commons of Canada. I know the table will have some understanding of the hard work that people like Mr Fraser, Mr Dawson and a certain Mr Holtby applied to the rewrite of these rules and forms of the Parliament of Canada.

In the sixth edition of Beauchesne's, published just a couple of years ago, it is observed, and I quote from page 5, "Traditionally changes in the standing orders" in Ottawa "were generally made by consensus after study by a special committee and consideration in committee of the whole." It goes on to talk about recent experience in Ottawa, the Lefebvre committee, the McGrath committee, both of which were in the early 1980s, and the gentlemen speaking in Beauchesne's sixth edition conclude, "The permanent changes resulting from these two committees were adopted on a motion moved by the government after consultation and compromise with the opposition."

I say to my friends opposite, that has been the way in which we have dealt with rule changes in this chamber over many years, and I would recommend it to my friends opposite as a way to proceed this time. I say again, I am quite prepared to entertain sweeping rule changes, and some of them might appear to be to my own disadvantage, but in this matter we have not just a substantive question of what we're going to change but why we are changing it.

I want to be very direct. In my view, this motion 7 is a companion piece to Bill 40. It is a piece of government business that concerns itself with making sure the Labour Relations Amendment Act is put through this chamber as quickly as possible.

I'm going to come in a moment to more specifics, but let me say this. When I went the other night, because I hadn't had the opportunity to do it on Monday—and I know people were rather vexed with some of my anger on Monday. I was extremely angry on Monday for a variety of reasons, one of which is this: What we had on Monday was, as far as I can tell, also unprecedented.

For a government House leader to quietly propose this kind of rule package, that's his right. I don't quarrel with that. But he went about that in a very clandestine fashion, put it on the Orders and Notices paper for Monday, the first day on which it appeared, and called it on Monday. That was for me an act of war.

1550

I say to my friends opposite who know anything about the way we do business, and I know there are people opposite who care about the institution, for a government House leader to quietly come up with a set of proposals is one thing—and I don't have as much of a quarrel with that as you might imagine; it's not particularly wise, in my view, but it was none the less done—but what was done here on Monday was even more breathtaking.

The government House leader, on the first day government notice of motion 7 appeared, moved to call it and has apparently said in regular channels that there will be no other government business dealt with until these rules are changed consistent with this motion. If a Tory or Liberal House leader had done that in the 15 years when I was here from 1975 to 1990, my friends in the NDP would have threatened to burn the place down.

Ms Christel Haeck (St Catharines-Brock): No.

Mr Will Ferguson (Kitchener): No, no.

Mr Conway: Well, no, you wouldn't, because you were not here. I understand that. I understand my friends. I believe them. I don't think they would have done it. But when I think back to the conduct of honourable members from communities like York South and Windsor-Riverside—don't believe me; look to the record—we saw some tactics that were in my view totally and absolutely discreditable.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): On a point of order, Mr Speaker—it will give my honourable friend the member for Renfrew North a chance to have a drink of water—I made a mistake earlier today when I introduced the AgriCorp bill. There are three components to it and I read only the one into the record. I would like permission to read the other two sections of that bill into the record so that it can be brought forward before the end of June.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Is there unanimous consent?

Interjections: Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: Unanimous consent. Please read your bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

AGRICORP ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR AGRICORP

Mr Buchanan moved first reading of Bill 63, An Act to establish a Corporation to provide for Agricultural Insurance / Loi portant création d'une personne morale offrant de l'assurance agricole.

Motion agreed to.

CROP INSURANCE ACT (ONTARIO), 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ASSURANCE-RÉCOLTE (ONTARIO)

Mr Buchanan moved first reading of Bill 65, An Act to revise the Crop Insurance Act (Ontario) / Loi portant révision de la Loi sur l'assurance-récolte (Ontario).

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Any statement, Minister?

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): I simply want to thank the House for its cooperation in allowing me to introduce these last two pieces of that bill so I could get them into the House for the record today.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Conway: This little incident makes a very small but important point. You see, this is the way this place works even in highly contentious debates. I warn my friends opposite, and I know there are very difficult and highly sensitive issues—

Mr Perruzza: It only worked because Mahoney wasn't in the House. He would have disagreed.

Mr Conway: Well, there are all kinds of routine things that happen here on the nod and by unanimous consent, and if people become angry to the point where they feel the need or the desire to pull that consent back, people like the minister, who had a perfectly valid reason to come in here and seek that and get that cleaned up, will be denied that. It is a slippery slope that leads to a very unhappy result.

I simply say that when I cite the reference to the sixth edition of Beauchesne's—and let me do it again: "Traditionally changes in the standing orders"—in Ottawa—"were generally made by consensus after study by a special committee and consideration in committee of the whole." The permanent changes made most recently in Ottawa resulted from a review of particularly the McGrath committee report. Those recommendations "were adopted on motion by the government after consultation and compromise with the opposition." That's the way it is normally done and normally done here.

Let me say something heretical. I think I may have said this the other day. I look at this package. There is a part of me, not a small part, that could and would buy this entire package, not because I think it is the best package we can decide upon, but when I look at this, I am very interested in most of it because I know a group of parliamentary outlaws against whom I would like to apply it.

That's not a good way to make policy, but I tell you, if I seem a little exercised, I have a right to be. It is to me breathtaking. It is absolutely breathtaking that we would get this motion from that party in the name of the honourable member for Windsor-Riverside in light of what happened here between 1987 and 1990.

Let me be once again ecumenical in blame-spreading. I wasn't here 10 years ago when my Liberal friends began that bell-ringing, but that was equally discreditable conduct. It was, in my view, fascistic. It is the fundamental abnegation and contradiction of Parliament to ring the bells and walk away. I can't imagine anything just more awful, more inexcusable and indefensible, and my Liberal friends did it. I was away and I was embarrassed. Whether if I had been here I would have won the day I don't know, but I want to give my friends opposite every assurance that that kind of conduct I will not engage in.

When I look at the specifics of this package, what I see—and I hope the member for Welland-Thorold gets into this debate, because I looked very carefully at the

proposals, and the proposals more than anything else seem to be targeted particularly at the antics the member for Welland-Thorold employed against the Liberal government. I remember the day when, in the middle of this floor, in a Brezhnev-like hug, the now Premier endorsed that conduct.

I know for new members it's none of your concern, and I excuse you from this, because you'll never do that, and those of us who have been around a while and have played some of these stupid games I hope have grown beyond that as well.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As I read through the rules, I find that the Speaker—it's really a judgement call—can exercise certain powers. What I find intriguing in Hansard is that the arguments that are being put forward by the member now he said verbatim last day. In the same debate he said it on Thursday. He's just repeating, rehashing the same arguments, the same ideas, and I believe you have the authority to move him on or sit him down, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your comments. The member for Renfrew North.

Mr Conway: Actually it's a fair criticism and I take it seriously. I make the point again, however, that the Beauchesne's reference advises us as to how we change the rules and what we are now engaged in is something unprecedented. We have a unilateral action with no prior consultation, and the day it appears on the Orders and Notices paper, it's called as the one and only order of government business until it's passed.

I submit again that the reason that is being done is that the government is determined to use these rule changes to ram the labour relations bill through the House and upon the province, and I find that equally distasteful.

1600

Let me go back now to my specifics. I ask my friends opposite to look at the proposal around 23a(a) in terms of limit on speeches. I say again that I do not have a particular problem with that. I will say to my friends opposite that if you think or any of my friends over here think that limiting speeches is going to limit debate, you are wrong. It might be vexatious to listen to Conway the windbag for three hours on Bill 118, but I can tell you that if I am limited to 90 minutes as the principal spokesperson, or to 30 minutes as an individual member—

Mr Perruzza: In fact you read that article in the Ottawa Citizen.

Mr Conway: Listen, I accept the criticism that's been levelled at me. I'm big enough and old enough to know that in the business of politics you must take as well as give. I understand how people might not have liked what I said on Monday. I'm a big boy. I don't go crying and whining and whimpering because somebody has taken a good public shot at me. That's the fun of politics, and the day I can't take it is the day I should stop giving it out. I'm somebody who has spent his time in this place freely giving it out and if I can't take it then I should get out. Some of what was said I don't particularly agree with, but I can

certainly understand it and in my view it was altogether fair criticism.

Now, let me say that here we have the rule that says the 30-minute speech and the 90-minute speech for leaders and for principal spokespersons. I don't have a problem with that, but I sometimes think the people who propose this imagine we will now use this to restrain debate. It will not happen that way. If I wanted to circumvent the intent, if that is the intent, the way I would do it on those matters would be to simply introduce some amendments, and on each amendment, of course, the speakers would have another round. Also, instead of maybe three speakers an hour I might decide that 12 speakers needed to take 30 minutes. There are ways in which the debate can be expanded.

I'm not here arguing that we should talk at great length on all issues. The Tory House leader was absolutely right today when he said that last Thursday, which was an interesting day, the government got two bills. Any time you get two bills it's not a bad day. There was very little debate on Bill 123, as I recall. I suspect that one could apply some of these new rules and cause much longer debate. When one looks at the number of bills that pass with very limited debate, some of them on the nod, I'll tell you it's not an unimpressive list.

I think it's interesting that the proposal for 23a(a) is different than the Ottawa proposal, which has three categories as I understand it: Party leaders are given unlimited time; critics are given a fixed amount of time, which I think is in something like the 90-minute category, though I don't know for sure, and individual speakers in Ottawa I think are limited to even less than the 30 minutes. But I say again that I don't personally—if I can say this I dare say that just about everybody in this chamber should be able to say it equally: I can live with the limitations considered in 23a(a).

Then I want to move to 29a. This is a very interesting change and it ties into the subsequent change having to do with dilatory motions. Here I know the government's frustration. Last week we saw the third party take one of the items that was not dealt with three years ago, namely, introduction of bills, and apply it in a dilatory fashion. So what we have in 29a is a provision which says essentially, "At 4 pm on any sessional day, the Speaker shall interrupt the proceedings and...shall proceed to orders of the day. There's no if, and or but. The Speaker has no say, once again, in whether or not there are extenuating circumstances to discount the direct move at 4 o'clock.

I simply observe that in my own experience over the last couple of years we've not had, save and except those incidents of last week, any real difficulty with the current rules. Clearly, this is an effort to tighten very closely any loose ends that might provide an opposition or a private member, or a government supporter not in the ministry, to hold up the business of the House for whatever good or bad reason.

Then we have a companion piece, 36(a), "The report of a standing or select committee on any bill shall be taken into consideration immediately and the Speaker shall put the question on the motion for the adoption of the report

forthwith, which question shall be decided without amendment or debate."

I say to my friends that this is one of the specific Kormos provisions because the government is here seeking to eliminate any debate at the report stage of a bill's progress through the process. Who among us will forget the debates back in the previous Parliament, the one of 1987 to 1990? The New Democrats, most especially, seized upon the debate at report stage. I remember Kormos, Reville, Mr Cooke and others extending by hours and, I believe, days the debate on the report stage.

Isn't it interesting that the government notice of motion 7 is going to ensure, if adopted, that no one in this Parliament is going to do to the NDP in government what the NDP freely did to another government just a few years ago in respect of a lengthy debate at the report stage.

I want to ask my honourable friends opposite and all private members, do we want to eliminate for ever a debate on the report of a standing or select committee which is reporting back to the House a very important bill or other matter? Perhaps we do, but I think it deserves some consideration that I have not had the time to offer. I say again to my friends opposite, let there be no confusion as to what you're doing.

I ask my friends from Brock, Simcoe and elsewhere, is there not some embarrassment that you are barefacedly, in these proposals, striking out at your own for what they did? Is this now an admission that what they did in this particular connection was wrong and unparliamentary? Maybe it was. I am not, on this one, prepared to make a decision at this point, though I can tell you if I were in government, it would clearly be of some real help, but I'm not so sure that the practices of this Legislature are such that we need, without any prior discussion, to eliminate the long-standing practice we've had for sometimes good, short and, sometimes in my view wrongly, very long debates around the report stage of a particular bill. But that is what you're proposing and that is a direct attack on what you and your own party did in this chamber just a few short years ago.

We move on then to the new section 44. It's interesting when we look at the new 44 as compared to the old 44. The old 44(a), on motions, simply says: "Motions to adjourn the House or the debate may not be moved until after the oral question period except upon unanimous consent of the House. Such motions do not require notice."

Section 44(b), "When a motion for the immediate adjournment of the House has been defeated, no other such motion shall be made unless some intermediate proceeding has taken place."

Third, "A motion for the adjournment of a debate or of the House during any debate, or for the Chair of a committee to report progress, or to leave the chair, is not debatable."

The new 44 strikes that out and talks only about dilatory motions. Again the intent of the government is clear: They are going to tolerate nothing of the kind of antics they themselves perpetrated in the name of the public good, they said, just a few short years ago.

Personally, I don't have a problem with some of the issues around some of the aspects of dilatory motions, but

I say to my friends opposite, what evidence beyond, I think, a few very limited examples—and I don't think they yet make the case for significant and sweeping change—in the last two years have we got to ditch and to abandon the current set of rules?

1610

As I say, you know that there is in 44(b) the opportunity that when a motion for adjournment of the House has been defeated, no other motion shall be made unless some intermediate proceeding has taken place. I know that Edighoffer, among others, has made some rulings around what the minimum practice there is going to be. I think it is not bad practice to date. Here we have in its stead quite an interesting discussion around the following:

"Dilatory motions may not be moved until after routine proceedings, except upon unanimous consent of the House. Such motions do not require notice and are not debatable."

"Where a dilatory motion by a member has been defeated, that member will lose control of the floor and debate will continue."

Now, this again is directly aimed at what Peter Kormos did a few years ago, and I hope my friends opposite—I was hoping Reverend Drainville would be here—understand what this does. In those days of not too many years ago, when we would see New Democrats on their feet engaging in a whole series of dilatory motions and other antics, some of them entirely distasteful, they were none the less allowed by the Liberal rules, even as changed, to continue in the debate.

But the New Democrats would do the following. If Peter Kormos were up, as he was for days on the insurance bill, under these rules the moment—let's say on second reading—he moved a dilatory motion, the following would happen: If his motion were defeated—and in a majority Parliament you can imagine it would be defeated—he would lose control of the floor and the debate would move on to someone else. I'll tell you, that is draconian.

As a former government House leader, I like it. I like it a lot because, as I say, I know some outlaws from personal experience against whom I would like to apply it. But I don't know that this is what we want to do in this place. I don't think we want to tilt the balance in the favour of government to that extent, particularly when we do not have the evidence to make that case. We may get it, but I look at this and I see a very interesting trend. I repeat that section 44(b), had it been around, would have scuppered the Kormos filibuster on auto insurance and the NDP filibuster on Sunday shopping in 1988 in a way that we were not ourselves even contemplating addressing.

I say to my friends that this is a kind of parliamentary cannibalism that we should stop and think about, because we may not want to be so bloody-minded with respect to those who might take a very independent course of action. But I repeat, as a former government House leader, I look at this and say, "Boy, if you want me to have it, I'll have it and I'll use it, and I know exactly the kind of people who will give me cause for its application."

Section 44(c) says, "For the purpose of this order 'dilatory motion' shall include a motion for the adjournment

of a debate, or of the House during any debate, or that the Chair do report progress or do leave the chair, or that the House do move to another item within routine proceedings, or that the House do move to orders of the day." This covers all of what I would expect a dilatory motion of this kind to cover.

I repeat for the last time—very interesting—the case law which has given rise to this kind of response. I want to tell you, this has nothing to do with the conduct of Liberal members in the 35th Parliament of Ontario; it has everything to do with the conduct of New Democrat members in the 34th Parliament.

On to an addition to standing order 44:

"44a(a) The government House leader or any minister of the crown may move a motion providing for the allocation of time to any proceedings on a government bill or government substantive motion."

That is very interesting. One of the things I find striking is that there is no requirement for any notice; no notice at all. Presumably at any point during a debate any cabinet minister can get up and, without notice, move time allocation. Let me say, I'm quite prepared to talk about time allocation. We've had a lot of it in this place in my time. The time allocation that's worked here has in the main been a voluntary time allocation.

Interjection.

Mr Conway: My friend points to the clock. He doesn't understand the point of his own government's initiative. I'm quite prepared to limit myself to 30 minutes if we are doing this in the ordinary course of events, but the government House leader has said we will debate this until it's passed and then we will move on to other government business. I repeat ad nauseam, that is a barefaced attempt by the government to unilaterally change the rules so it can, in the next few weeks, ram the labour bill down the throat of this chamber. I will not easily let that happen.

Mr Perruzza: You just said that that couldn't happen.

Mr Conway: It will happen under the passage of this motion.

I want to say that we've had time allocation in this chamber for a long time and, as I say, it has worked in the main on a voluntary basis. There have been times I myself have had to do it, to put a motion to move a certain order of business through the House, but this makes it a standing order. This makes it routine business, where any cabinet minister on any bill or any substantive motion by the government can invoke time allocation. Again, that is one of those changes that is going to profoundly affect the parliamentary culture of this place.

I will make no bones of a discussion I had just this morning with the Clerk of the assembly, Mr DesRosiers. He observed that in Ottawa they have very nice, neat, tidy rules and some not very good practice. We have had over the years a rule book that is not very tidy, but practices that have tended to be much more efficient than the rules would indicate. If one wants to move, as perhaps some do, to highly codified procedures, then you may in fact get the very reverse of what you want.

I say again, when one looks at these rules, one is always looking at the balance between the government's right on the one hand to get on with its business and, after an appropriate amount of time, to conclude the business, and on the other, the right of honourable members as individual members or in the opposition to say their piece with respect to what the government is doing and not doing.

I submit to you again that in standing order 44a(a), by having no notice provision, you have also slightly tipped the balance in favour of the government. If I were where I would hope to be in this kind of discussion, at an ad hoc committee representing the three parties, I would be quite willing to talk about time allocation. I don't think I would do it quite this way. I say to you, as honourable members, you would not want me, as a government House leader, armed with this kind of ammunition.

If the New Democrats think they will never again be in opposition, they should endorse this package with great enthusiasm, but if they ever think the day may come when they themselves walk across this 18-foot aisle or whatever it is to join the opposition benches, they're going to look at some of this and see that they authorized a set of rule changes—if they're adopted—that tilted the balance in favour of government.

1620

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): That won't happen.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot says it will not happen. Dare I be provocative?

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): What other way do you know?

Mr Conway: Watch me. That is a bit presumptuous, and I'm only being half serious when I say that, but the day will come when you might very well have to be living with the other side of this.

It's not just that. It's a question of getting a time allocation codified in a way that will get less done than we now get. The practice around here, and it's been no secret, has been that in your first few weeks or months, that fall or winter term, a lot of time is perhaps not assiduously spent, and at Christmas and the end of April an awful lot of cramming is done and a lot of work gets done. A lot of consensus allows that to happen. That's time allocation of a kind. We've had it; it's worked. If you want to move to this, it's your right, but don't think it will get you what you want, because the Ottawa experience would indicate that our voluntary time allocation has served us better than its highly codified time allocation.

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): Six months before the election we'll change it back.

Mr Conway: My friend the member for Guelph says, "Six months before the election we'll change it back."

Now I want to move along to something that I think ought to be really of concern to members of the Legislature as individual members, to any and all members who beat their breasts in joy and self-praise a few years ago when we decided that we were going to elect a Speaker, we were going to remove that awful tradition where essentially the Premier nominated the Speaker and created the

impression that the Speaker was there really at the behest of the Premier and would somehow do the Premier and the government's bidding. If you check the record you'll find that people like Mr Breagh and Mr Johnston, both very fine, hardworking, thoughtful New Democrats, wanted as much as anything a change that would cause the election of the Speaker, so that the Speaker would be independent, would not longer be faced with appeals to his rulings and would feel that because of his elected mandate he would be able to make some of the tough decisions a good Speaker must take.

Now we come to the new standing order 45, the closure motion. In some ways—I don't know who said it—this is an improvement, because our closure motion has been extremely irregular, confusing and contradictory. My friend the Clerk was reminding me that for us in this assembly over the decades our closure motion was the motion that said "and that the previous question be now put." But in the practices of the Ontario Legislature "the previous question" never meant the previous question; what it really meant was "the main question before the assembly." Very odd, very peculiar.

We have here now an effort by the government proposal to clean it up. They have cleaned it up. We've got 45(a), which is the guillotine motion, which says, "After a question has been proposed from the Chair, either in the House or in a committee of the House, a motion for closure may be moved by any member, without notice, and shall be in the following words: 'That this question be now put.' Such motion shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. If a motion for closure is resolved in the affirmative, the question that has been proposed from the Chair shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate."

That is the classic guillotine. It simply says that if you're in a debate on anything and someone stands up—anyone, because it says "a motion for closure may be moved by any member"—the question then before the House is "that this question be now put." That's the question immediately before the House. It must be decided then and there. That's the guillotine. Quite frankly, that's all you need. There is then 45(b), which is an effort to clean up the previous question and to actually have it mean what it says it means.

Interesting, and I find that effort not entirely disagreeable, but when I look at 45, then I look at the old 45, what do I find? Let me read the old 45. I want you all—you who have embraced rightly the notion that we should have an elected Speaker as part of the enhancement of the Speakership and as an effort to make the case that this now is a truly modern Legislature, that gone are the days when Speakers did as Les Frost and Mitch Hepburn and Howard Ferguson threatened them to do for fear of revocation of their three-cornered hat and the perquisites of office—to reflect upon the old rule 45: "A motion for closure, which may be moved without notice, until it is decided shall preclude all amendment of the main question, and shall be in the following words: 'That this question be now put.'" This is the sentence I want you to carefully consider.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think this is a very important subject that needs to be dealt with and listened to. I understand that cabinet ministers have very important functions to carry out during the day and I appreciate the fact that they're not here. But considering the fact that the information is sage advice, I think we should have a little more attention being paid to the speaker at this time.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your comment.

Mr Conway: I want everyone, if they will, for just a moment to listen to this sentence, because this is a sentence—

Interjection.

Mr Conway: I'm serious. This is a sentence that is not in the government notice of motion 7 around your closure motion. This is the sentence that's been dropped: "Unless it appears to the Speaker that such a closure motion is an abuse of the standing orders of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question"—the motion of closure—"shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate." Very important, because in the old rule there was an allowance for the Speaker to exercise judgement. It was the Speaker's right to sit and hear what was going on. If the Speaker felt that the motion to close off debate was premature or was in some way an infringement of the right of an honourable member to make a point not yet made, the Speaker, on his or her own, could exercise that important adjudicative right.

I say to my friends opposite: Why has that right, that discretionary power that I think is important for the Speaker, been stripped out of this new proposal for the guillotine and for closure? I am very concerned about that. It might have been inadvertent; I dare say it probably wasn't. This is a matter that we ought to consider if we thought we were doing something two and a half or three years ago in electing the Speaker and in elevating the role of the Speakership, because this is a significant diminution of the Speaker's powers in this assembly on a very important matter, and that is a matter to cut off debate.

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): Are you going to drag on this debate until August?

Mr Conway: I'm not going to drag on the debate. In fact, I will—

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Does anybody over there either understand or give a damn about this? We're talking about the very future of this Legislature.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Conway: It is important for all of us, particularly for those of us who've been around and who might want to be around for a while—the NDP is a group of men and women who have always been interested in and concerned about this kind of stuff.

1630

God, when I think of people like Lawlor, MacDonald and Renwick, to the extent I know anything about this stuff is because I listened to people like that. Jim Renwick was probably one of the most articulate, eloquent, thoughtful

and sensible people on subjects like this. Jim was, of course, a New Democrat from Riverdale. I put the question, where did that Speaker's discretionary power go on the closure motion and why did it leave the scene?

As honourable members concerned about our role as private members, if we really are serious about the role of an independent Speaker, do we want, in an act of unilateralism by the government, to strip that out? You see, I don't disagree with some of what's here in other ways. I think the cleanup of this business in other matters is probably overdue, but that doesn't mean that I want to just simply endorse it willy-nilly.

Again I say to my friends opposite that if you force me and if you force my friend Harnick, you will win the day with this. Some day, maybe in 1995, maybe in 1998 or maybe in 2004, you will be on the receiving end of this. You may think then, "Boy, we really did close off all the doors." The doors you've closed off in this package, by and large, are the doors that Peter Kormos opened and slammed with the able assistance of David Cooke, Bob Rae, David Reville and others. That is the delicious irony.

Mr Wood: And Sean Conway.

Mr Conway: No. You see, I say to my friend the member for Cochrane North, I give him this assurance that I will never do the things that were done here a couple of years—

Mr Wood: You're doing it now.

Mr Conway: No, I am not. I am not doing that. I wouldn't even be on my feet if this motion were where it should be. It should be off with some kind of panel. I would go so far as to say I don't even mind the government saying: "We are concerned about the dilatory nature of these discussions. You may not like it, Elston, and you may like it, Eves, but we have a motion. Here it is. You better go off and decide what you're going to do about it. We've got some minimum conditions and we want them met." I can't say anything else because that's what I did myself three years ago.

But I tell you, my friends, that is a long way from walking in here and saying: "On Monday, June 7, we have on the Orders and Notices paper major and unilateral changes to these rules. That's the order of business today and it will be the order of government business for every consecutive day until they are passed." That is revolutionary for this place. We want to think about that. As I say, if you apply your majority you can win this.

I'm always accused of using words that are multisyllabic, but there is a very good word for the victory you will win: It is called pyrrhic.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Can I hear that again?

Mr Conway: It is a pyrrhic victory and it will be a victory that will serve no good end. I can appreciate my friends' frustration, particularly members of the executive council, but you had better know what you're doing and you had better understand that this may come back to haunt you sooner than later, and certainly later, should you ever be out of office.

Mrs Marland: In two years' time.

Mr Conway: I'm not prepared to say that. The people of Ontario will make a decision. They may very well return the government; I don't know. They may return my friends in the Conservative Party. They may return—

Interjections.

Mr Conway: I want to make a final point on the specifics, because I don't intend to hold the floor all afternoon. In fact, I will keep it for a little longer but not much longer.

Standing order 101(b) is again a provision to disallow any debate on the report out of committee of the whole. Let me read the new 101(b): "If such a motion is carried, further proceedings of a committee of the whole House on the matter or bill then under consideration shall not be superseded; but the matter or bill shall be resumed at the point where they were interrupted. Such a motion shall not prejudice...."

Sorry. Actually, I've got that in reverse order.

The final point is 101(a), where essentially we're stripping out any possibility for a discussion of the report of the committee of the whole House, and that's consistent with what we did elsewhere in stripping out any possibility to discuss any of the matters contained in a report back to the House from a standing or select committee.

Mr Speaker, I submit to you that these proposals are interesting. They ought to be looked at by a committee. They ought to be looked at from the point of view of balance. They ought to be looked at from the point of view of what they do to the Speakership. They ought to be looked at from the point of view of notice to private members.

I say again to my friends, those of you who've got families, do you really want to start into the night sittings? I won't quarrel. I will sit Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. I don't think you should be subjected to the bachelor preferences or possibilities of the member for Renfrew North, because many of you have families, and the arguments that you've made over the years have always, to me, made sense. But in a dramatic reversal of traditional NDP positioning on this timetabling matter, you've decided you want to forget all the advice of Ross McClellan and Elie Martel and others and you want to go back to night sitting.

Well—I'm not authorized by my colleagues to say this—you'll get no quarrel from me; none at all. But I think you'll get some quarrel from your spouses and from your kids, and if you don't, you should.

I want to return briefly, as I conclude, again to the argument that's been advanced by the government House leader. The government House leader is saying, "We must have these rule changes unilaterally imposed now because we're not getting anything done." I submit that is demonstrably not true and it is transparently not the real reason the government is here today with this motion.

Government notice of motion 7, I repeat for the umpteenth time, is part of the tactics to ram the Labour Relations Amendment Act through this House as quickly as possible. That's what the real agenda is, and it was, I think, interesting and noteworthy that both Bill 40, the Act to amend the Labour Relations Act, and the government notice of motion 7

arrived together last Thursday. They are of a piece, clearly. But what have we seen? What have we seen in this place over the last few months? My friend the member for Parry Sound, who'll be speaking shortly, will be able to give much more chapter and verse than I of the government's business.

I was asking my friend the member for Bruce where we stood, and where do we stand? We stand with a government—granted, governing in tough times—that is increasingly torn among its several factions. We've got the feminist wing of cabinet at war with the labour wing of cabinet. We've got the pragmatists at war with the ideologues. We've got the geographical components consistently working out. I must say that's not altogether new to the NDP government, but it's causing, in this environment, a very tortuous introduction of bills.

I want to just use some examples. I used one the other day. Whose fault is it if the government has now brought forward 190 amendments to the advocacy and consent bills? I congratulate the minister, who's here, for listening to the people.

I was down this morning in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. We have Bill 150, An Act to provide for the Creation and Registration of Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations to Invest in Eligible Ontario Businesses and to make certain other amendments. In the last few days the government has introduced an Eaton's catalogue of amendments. The bill is being rewritten in the committee as we speak, and it's more than that. There are two components. In the worker ownership component we have the Steelworkers saying it's fundamentally flawed, and on the venture capital side—only the unions and cooperatives will be able to run the venture capital corporations—we've got people like the Ontario Federation of Labour saying, "No way, José; we're not buying."

1640

That's a very important piece of government legislation, priority legislation. I forget how many, but there are scores of government amendments that are being introduced as we speak down in the committee. That's not the opposition holding anything up; that's the government. I understand, because we were there, that it's difficult to get it all together, but it's not all together. The bill down in the committee is, as I say, being fundamentally redrafted on the floor. I want to give some credit to some of the government members. I was there this morning briefly. The member for Oxford seemed to be doing a good job in difficult circumstances. But that's happening; I'm not making that up.

I noticed the government House leader had the amendments to the Game and Fish Act on his "must have" list: "We must have third reading of Bill 162 before we adjourn this summer." That was just the other day. Just a few days before that, the Minister of Agriculture and Food said in the standing committee on estimates the following about Bill 162: "I think it got first reading, and I think it got to first and maybe second reading under the last administration. Now my good friend the Minister of Natural Resources has brought in his Bill 162. So who wrote up the definitions, I'm not sure. No, I didn't have any input into the

definition of a farmer, but"—here's the salient point—"I'm going to have to have a lot more input in terms of how we handle game farming before this legislation becomes final for third reading stage."

Here's the Minister of Agriculture and Food saying on May 26 that he's got to have a lot more input on the definition around game farming before Bill 162 can have third reading, and a few days later we've got the government House leader saying, "Bill 162 is on our 'must have' list for third reading by June 25." That's not opposition obstruction. I understand what Elmer Buchanan is saying, but don't blame us for the problems the government is having.

I was reading the London papers the other day. The spectacle of the London-Middlesex annexation policy is something to behold. It changes every week, if not every half week. We have, alternatively, the Minister of Municipal Affairs saying one thing; we have the member for Middlesex, for whom I have no little sympathy in this matter, saying another thing. My friend the member for Bruce just handed me a fax copy of the Saturday, June 6 edition of the London Free Press with the headline, "London Expansion Could be Slashed: The Proposal Has Angered Mayor Tom Gosnell and Arbitrator John Brant." Just reading the first paragraph, "The Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs says he's willing to consider a proposal to drastically reduce the amount of land London would annex at the end of the year." That may be right and good; I don't know. All I know is, I have the government's "must have" list on June 11, and on that list it says the London annexation bill is to be announced and it must be passed.

I'm sorry, that is a provocative act, and the person who launched it knows only too well how provocative it is. But it is clearly a contradiction of the government line that somehow the opposition is holding up the business of the House.

That nonsense my friends engaged in the other day, the endless reading of bills, troubles me. I wish they would stop, but they will make their own decisions. It will make every gazetteer in the province happy, but it will make most of us very unhappy.

Interjection: What are you doing now?

Mr Conway: I hope I'm speaking to the substance of your motion, since apparently I'm not going to ever again have an opportunity to address it.

At any rate, I say that on the government's own list of "must have" legislation is the London-Middlesex annexation bill we don't have, and we don't have it, I think, for a very good reason, and I'm sympathetic to the government: The policy has not been decided. Presumably the members from Middlesex and others will continue to press a variety of possibilities and they will do good work in that connection. But don't come in here with government notice of motion and say, "We've got to have this because we are not getting our business done, and one of our priority pieces of business is the London-Middlesex annexation bill," the policy of which is not yet decided.

I say as well on the government's "must have" list is Bill 38, the so-called Sunday shopping proposal. I'm with

my friend from Parry Sound. What a spectacle. It was a week ago yesterday that the Premier himself, on one of his rare visits to the chamber, said: "I want to cut this clean. I want a vote, hopefully sooner than later. I want to make it a free vote. Let's get it over with so we can get on with other business." I think I said, indelicately: "You've done the right thing. Get on with it. Sit down and eat your crow," because I expected we were going to have a debate, one where I think a good voluntary time allocation ought to apply, and for God's sake, let's decide this thing and move on to other business. That's what I thought we were getting. I thought it because the Premier said it and the bill was introduced very well by the Solicitor General on June 3.

I get up this morning, I read the Financial Post, and what do I read? It's a Canadian Press story. I'm going to read three or four paragraphs, "NDP Delays Free Vote on Sunday Law," by Canadian Press, in today's Financial Post, June 11, 1992:

"A free vote on Sunday shopping originally scheduled for today in the Legislature has been delayed indefinitely, Solicitor General Allan Pilkey said yesterday.

"But the vote to repeal restrictions on Sunday shopping in the Retail Business Holidays Act is a formality since stores have already been allowed to open on Sundays, Pilkey said outside the Legislature.

"I don't sense anything is turning on whether or not the second and third reading gets done next week or next month."

That's clearly a contradiction of what the Premier implied, and I think it was the member for Waterloo North who today indicated that the bill does have some current application.

It goes on to two other interesting paragraphs. The Canadian Press story today says the government's decided to change its mind and the minister responsible said it doesn't really mean anything or matter. Then we get the government House leader saying "he won't bring forward the vote on Sunday shopping until the opposition parties agree to pass so-called rules changes" in this Legislature. That I think is a clear indication again of what the real agenda is.

Finally, just to quote a last paragraph from the story today, "New Democrat Peter Kormos—an opponent of Sunday shopping—said that by pushing the rules changes ahead of the free vote the government has shown it has little regard for opponents of its bill."

I have to agree with my friend from Welland, because I said earlier that the real intent of these proposals is to get at the Kormos filibuster so that no one—did I say Kormos filibuster? I meant the Kormos insurgency, because one of the points of this is that the government, the Rae government, Bob Rae, the man who, like Leonid Brezhnev, stood here and embraced Mr Kormos for all of these tactics applied against the Peterson government on Sunday shopping and on the Joan Smith affair and on the workers' compensation policy, policies the NDP found absolutely obnoxious and totally unpalatable—those tactics that were so freely applied by them against us will not be tolerated when the shoe is on the other foot.

My friend Bradley likes to observe that politics is like baseball. It's a matter of both pitching and catching. And

what we are seeing is a group in government that has grown to see baseball only as a game of pitching.

1650

I simply observe that again on the government's "must have" list is Bill 38. That's what we're being told, and in the papers today we read something quite to the contrary.

We have as well, and I'm going to just take one other example, the labour bill. To introduce on June 4 a bill of such complexity, sensitivity and controversy and expect that the bill is going to be disposed of in the last three weeks of a sitting—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): They knew it couldn't be done.

Mr Conway: They absolutely knew it couldn't be done. Again I'm not going to be unreasonable. I understand what the government wants and I'm quite prepared as one member—I have no authority on behalf of anyone else—to say to my House leader, who tells me, by the way, that most of the "must have" list is not particularly difficult to accommodate, to go so far as to let it be accommodated with one of our traditional end-of-session voluntary time allocations. I will submit to that as long as the three leaders come to some understanding and that's going to be done by consensus and compromise.

But I repeat, my House leader tells me that when he looks at the government's "must have" list there are a lot of things on there we think we can accommodate if we ever get the bills; if we stop getting what we get today on Bill 150, an avalanche of government amendments; if we get the London annexation bill, if the policy is ever decided; if we get Bill 38, the Sunday shopping legislation. I mean, we've got to have it before we can speak to it and decide it.

Another observation, en passant, is to see—

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Hey!

Mr Conway: Well, I just want to tell you. You should know this. Stephen Lewis wrote a very important report this week. I was perusing it just this morning. Let me just read the following from the recommendations, page 19, having regard to employment equity. Listen to this, my friends. This report was tabled two days ago, on June 9, and this is a recommendation.

"The employment equity legislation should be introduced for first reading before the end of June, and if the session is for some reason prolonged, second reading should proceed. Whatever the timetable for early readings and committee consideration, the bill should be passed by December 31, 1992."

Let me repeat that. "The employment equity legislation should be introduced for first reading before the end of June," and he recommends that "if the session is for some reason prolonged," we should add this bill to the "must have" second reading list.

This is the agenda. I don't fault Stephen Lewis, but what's going on here? I'm very sympathetic to employment legislation, but this is equally revolutionary. I mean, it's unthinkable in the past practices. We'd have a recommendation. We all understand the urgency. But we've now got outside commissioners telling the House that if it's

going to sit beyond July 1—and it probably will—we should put another piece of yet-to-be-introduced, probably yet-to-be-drafted legislation on the “must have” for first and second readings.

I will leave my argument there by simply observing that yes, the opposition has I think in some cases been perhaps a bit exercised. The debates have in some cases been extended. I myself have participated in some of those. I believe very strongly that in the case of Bill 118 it is a very important government policy pregnant with all kinds of future difficulty.

It's only a few weeks ago that I looked at the government agenda and there were about four bills on it. We have an obligation as an opposition to criticize, to oppose and to dispose. But we can't dispose of that which we don't have, and we didn't have for some time Bill 40, the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act. We've got, but apparently can't or won't get at, the Sunday shopping bill. We're going to get, but have not yet seen, the London annexation proposal. We've got apparently Bill 171, the Toronto Islands bill, which again has been totally recast with scores of government amendments.

I'm not going to be repetitive. I say that if there is fault, at the very least it is a shared fault, and anyone with any experience ought to know that walking in here in the last three weeks of the session and saying, “We are going to put on the ‘must have’ list” and get things as contentious as the government has put on the “must have” list, like the OLRA—that is a provocative act and people who sponsored it know it as such.

I say in conclusion that government notice of motion 7 is interesting. Speaking personally, there is much that I can live with and, all of it, I would some day literally salivate at the thought of using it. But I don't think we ought to make changes on the basis of that kind of personal preference. I think there has been a tried and true way, and I think we should resort to that.

I don't even have a problem if the government wants to do as I did three years ago to focus the mind: put some things on the table and then move them aside for due deliberation by people like my friends from Bruce and Parry Sound and others, perhaps the members from Cochrane, Durham-York and Sudbury, I don't know.

We should think very carefully about how we're going to do this. We should do it because it's the right thing and not because there is another obvious agenda, which I submit there is. Today's Financial Post and last week's simultaneous tabling of Bill 40 and the government notice of motion make that very plain to me.

If I was angry the other day—and I was. I was absolutely furious to think that Guy Fawkes would come into this chamber and ascend the pulpit and preach with breast outstretched the first-order importance of parliamentary decorum, efficiency and fire safety in these precincts.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Further debate?

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): It is with some reluctance that I join this debate, because I don't think it's one that's necessary at this particular point in time. Having

said that, however, there are many points that I would like to get on the record.

I guess the first place to start is, my, how the New Democratic Party has changed over the years with respect to its attitude towards time allocation motions, closure motions, limiting debate, introduction of petitions, introduction of bills, ringing of bells for days on end. In one case they actually prevented a budget from being read by the Treasurer in the chamber.

Now here they are, defenders of parliamentary tradition, so they say, and for the first time in the 125-year history of the Ontario Legislature we have this party that supposedly defends democratic principles unilaterally trying to shove through with its majority something that it has stood steadfastly against for almost the entire 125 years of this Legislature, because, you see,

it's been in opposition for almost the entire 125 years of this Legislature.

Defenders of principle, defenders of democracy, defenders of the minority, people's right to speak, unlimited debate—that is what the New Democratic Party and its predecessors have stood for all these years. Today we have the House leader of the New Democratic Party with his notice of motion to unilaterally change the rules of this place for the first time without consensus by all three major recognized parties in the Ontario Legislature. That is where we have come to.

I have some advice for the New Democratic members, the government members; that is, perhaps they should take stock of who they are and whence they come, because I think they seem to have forgotten who they are and what their principles are and what their party has stood for for a great number of years.

1700

I was left a few moments ago with a small story from the Canadian Jewish News dated Thursday, June 11, 1992, which the member for Willowdale left with me. I think this one small story is some good advice for the members of the New Democratic governing party in Ontario.

“The wise man of Chelm was faced with a dilemma. He had never been in a public bathhouse. Without the distinction of clothes, how was he to tell who he was? He had no birthmarks, no warts; he looked like everyone else. What was he to do?”

“Suddenly an idea struck him. He tied a scarlet thread around his toe. ‘This will be my identifying mark,’ he said, confidently entering the shower. But somehow the thread got loose and by chance became wrapped around the toe of the fellow showering next to him. The Chelmer stared down at his toe and saw no thread. Startled, he noticed the thread wound around the toe of the man showering next to him. He politely tapped him on the shoulder and said, ‘Pardon me, sir, I know who you are, but would you mind telling me who I am?’”

Now that is exactly what has happened to the New Democratic Party today. They've forgotten who they are, and since they have assumed all the trappings of power with their majority government they have become what they said they would never become. They have thrown away their principles. They no longer stand for minority

rights to speak. They no longer stand for unlimited free debate. They now stand for protecting the power they have. That's what they stand for today and this notice of motion speaks to it perhaps better than anything else.

I would also like to get on the record at the outset that I have many speeches by former NDP House leaders, leaders, parliamentary experts of their party, as to exactly what they thought over the years about the introduction of rule changes unilaterally, what they thought about the introduction of time allocation motions, what they thought about the introduction of closure motions, what they thought about limiting an individual member's time to speak or right to speak in this place. It's amazing to read some of these speeches—and very eloquent too I might add; a lot of them were extremely eloquent.

The former member for Riverdale, Mr Renwick, has a great treatise here of some 20 or 25 pages, every single word of which I hope to get to read into the record because I think these people have forgotten the Mr Renwicks of the world, of their own kind, who have on previous occasions, some 10 years ago, lectured to this House and talked to this House and informed this House how we got the parliamentary tradition that we have in Ontario today.

I would also like to point out that the government House leader seems to be putting a spin on things, that the opposition is somehow preventing him from proceeding with business and calling legislation in this House. For the benefit of the public out there, who may not be familiar with the proceedings of this place or how we do business here, I would like to point out that what is called on any given day in the Ontario Legislature is entirely up to the government House leader and no one else. The government House leader can call any piece or order of business he or she wishes on any day at any time that he or she properly has the floor. Usually what is agreed upon at the House leaders' meeting the preceding Thursday morning is what takes place and the business is arrived at by consensus.

We have found in this Legislature that has worked relatively well over the years. There is always legislation that any particular government of any political stripe may introduce that the opposition parties vigorously oppose or one of the opposition parties vigorously opposes, and that's to be expected in our parliamentary system of government. I can think of the Bill 94 debate, which was a very hot issue, where the other two parties in this place happened to differ from the party I belong to with respect to that very controversial piece of legislation. I can think of previous Sunday shopping bills, Bills 113 and 114 which, I might add, the current government vigorously opposed. I have some great speeches here too, actually the government House leader's thoughts on Sunday shopping in Ontario, in that great year of 1989 I believe it was, and what he thought about Sunday shopping and how Sunday shopping might undermine the moral fabric of our Ontario society and certainly should not be introduced into this province at any time whatsoever.

That provides for some very interesting debate, if and when we ever get around to the Sunday shopping legislation that his leader and Premier promised last Wednesday to call as expeditiously as possible so we could have some

certainty about Sunday shopping in this province, have a free vote, let the individual members, all 130 of them, vote their own individual conscience and put that matter behind us.

I'd like to read a letter I received from the government House leader, in my capacity as House leader for my party, this past Monday morning. It was delivered to my office. I was sitting in my office after a question period meeting and at 10 am this missal arrived from the government House leader. It says:

"I'm writing to inform you of my intention to move a resolution changing the standing orders of the House. I have consistently over the past year expressed concern with the level of legislative progress being achieved and the amount of taxpayers' dollars wasted while important public business sits idle."

Mrs Marland: What's the date on that?

Mr Eves: June 8.

"I believe that the reforms that I am proposing today will allow for a thoughtful scrutiny of issues while ensuring intelligent debate."

I don't think we can ever ensure intelligent debate in this place. We can ensure debate, though, no doubt.

"A copy of my resolution, which appears in today's order paper, is attached for your information. It is my intention to debate this item this afternoon."

"As usual, I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have with respect to making this Legislature work."

"Yours sincerely."

For the members of the public out there who don't know how this place works quite as well as some of us do and some of us wish we did, you're supposed to file any order of business which you want on the printed order paper before 5 pm of the preceding day. If that does not happen, it's not printed and generally isn't dealt with, except the government House leader, of course, as I said, always has the prerogative to call any order of business he wishes—in this case "he."

I wasn't here last Thursday afternoon, unfortunately. However, I understand that the reason or the excuse the House leader gives for having to take this drastic measure was that my colleagues introduced 20 separate pieces of legislation asking for economic impact studies on what the proposed labour legislation, now known as Bill 40, would have upon different regions of Ontario.

This should have come as no surprise to the government, because over the last six, seven, eight, nine months, my leader has consistently asked the Minister of Labour in question period, time after time after time, as has our critic for the Labour ministry, time after time after time: "Do you have any impact studies as to what effect your legislation will have on jobs, on employment in the province of Ontario, and what impact it will have on the economy of the province of Ontario, what impact it may have on future investment in the province of Ontario? Indeed, will current investment in jobs and employment leave the province of Ontario as a result of this proposed legislation?"

Mr Stockwell: What did he say?

Mr Eves: Time after time after time, the Minister of Labour has not answered that question. There has been no study that the government has done about the impact of this proposed legislation. He has on occasion used that opportunity during question period to—shall I say an impolite word?—dump all over some independent studies that have been done, because anything he doesn't happen to philosophically or ideologically agree with, as far as he's concerned, is phoney and irrelevant and he refuses to take that into account.

Why doesn't he order his own independent study? I think that would be a prudent and responsible thing for any government to do. To introduce a very significant piece of legislation where you know there is at least some question, to be fair, as to what economic impact this legislation may or may not have upon the economy of the province, upon employment in the province, upon investment in the province—yet he has steadfastly refused to even do that.

He didn't do his homework. We had to do it for him. Hence, we introduced 20 individual bills for 20 different regions of the province that have 20 different regional economies, to ask what the impact of such legislation would be.

1710

At the end of the day, as I understand it, the government House leader managed to put through a motion to extend the sitting hours of the House until 12 midnight or 12 am, whichever you prefer. As a result of that process, there was a negotiated agreement to pass Bill 118, the Hydro bill, on third reading, and Bill 123, the Ottawa-Carleton bill. I would think that was significant progress for any House leader in one day. He accomplished third reading of two very significant pieces, especially Bill 118.

As my colleague the member for Renfrew North has pointed out on several occasions, Bill 118 is a very important piece of legislation. It changes philosophically the role of Ontario Hydro. It gives the Minister of Energy and cabinet very hands-on, direct control of Ontario Hydro. I think it's a very significant piece of legislation. Whether you agree with the philosophy or not is almost immaterial, but it is a major ideological change with respect to that crown agency. I would have thought the government House leader might have expected a vigorous debate on the philosophy and principles behind Bill 118.

Just as an aside, while we're talking about that, whenever questions are asked by the opposition on government agencies, I've heard cabinet minister after cabinet minister say: "Oh, completely hands off. It has nothing to do with me. I, as minister, cannot order an agency that's under the jurisdiction of my ministry what to do." I presume that reason or excuse has been blown for ever by Bill 118, because what this government wants is a very direct, hands-on approach to government agencies. They want the minister and the cabinet to be able to pick up the phone and say to the chairman of any agency: "You are going to do this because we are in charge. We control your budget and you will do as you're told." So I presume that response will never come across the floor again from any cabinet minister responsible for any government agency. I presume that argument is out the window.

I want to talk about all this legislation. Another thing that irked me a little bit, going back to last Thursday and this Monday morning, was the fact that before I had even read the government House leader's letter, which he was kind enough to have delivered to my office at 10 am, I read the contents of the letter in the *Globe and Mail* newspaper. Obviously, to have it printed in Monday morning's newspaper, the *Globe and Mail* must have had the contents of what the government House leader was intending to do long before Monday morning.

We also note that according to the rules, the government House leader must have filed his notice of motion with the table Clerk before 5 pm on the preceding Thursday. In fact, he must have filed it when he was negotiating, supposedly in good faith, with my colleagues and the colleagues of the Liberal Party as to exactly what we were going to get passed last Thursday evening in this place. He had every opportunity to stand in his place prior to 6 pm last Thursday or indeed prior to midnight and tell the members and colleagues in this House, again in good faith, what he was planning to call for Monday afternoon's business.

According to standing order 53, that is exactly what he is supposed to do and bound to do by the rules of this place. Standing order 53 says, "Before the adjournment of the House on each Thursday during the session, the government House leader shall announce the business for the following week."

What did the government House leader announce? He announced that he would inform the House on Monday what he intended to call. He didn't comply with standing order 53, in my humble opinion, because he did not announce the business of the House for the following week. He just said he would make an announcement about an announcement which he would announce the following Monday, knowing full well that he intended to call this notice of motion and knowing full well that when he gave the story to the *Globe and Mail* and it was there in Monday morning's newspaper, he hadn't exactly dealt with my colleagues in good faith.

I want to go back on the rules changes a little bit too, because I want the public to understand the background behind this. Going back as far as last fall, I will give the government House leader this: He had indicated his concern with the rules and parliamentary reform and he had indicated to myself and my Liberal counterparts on numerous occasions at House leaders' meetings that he would like to see a new package of rules or the rules of this place changed.

For our part, our party was never against and still is not against discussing rule changes. I have been the House leader through that entire period of time and I have always consistently indicated to the government House leader and to the House leader of the Liberal Party, whoever it was at the time—and I'll come to that problem in a moment—that we were more than willing to sit down and talk about rule changes, that we thought the proper way to do it was by consensus, as it has been done for 125 years in Ontario, and that we preferred the method that was done the last time the rules were changed.

Basically, for the public out there, the rules were changed by an ad hoc committee of three people, one representative of each caucus sitting down and negotiating what rules they thought should be changed, how this place could be improved upon and how it could work more cooperatively. That process took, if I'm not mistaken, a couple of years. When that package was agreed upon by that ad hoc committee, the package finally went to the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly committee made a few recommendations and changes of its own and eventually we ended up with a consensus set of rules that everybody could and did agree to. I'll get to the speeches where the now government House leader spoke in glowing terms about arriving at rule changes in this place by consensus, not by unilateral action. That is what happened then and that is what has usually happened in the past.

I also want to deal with the government House leader's reason or excuse that he needs these rule changes now before he can discuss any legislation whatsoever because the place has ground to a halt and he needs to get all kinds of important legislation through and he's afraid he can't do it unless he gets the rules changed. He also has indicated, I believe in the media—I don't have the clipping with me—that he has some 121 pieces of legislation that he would like to see passed and can't get done.

I think a good place to start is to look at how many government bills were held over from the last Parliament, the last session when we prorogued last December, before we came back. The government held over 22 pieces of government legislation from the last session. To date we've passed nine of those 22 pieces of legislation that were held over. We have by unanimous agreement of the three parties sent four advocacy pieces of legislation plus a new one, so that's five, to committee. We've agreed by consensus, as is usually done in this place, upon how those five bills will be dealt with. So that brings us to 14 out of the 22 having been adequately dealt with by unanimous agreement and consensus. That leaves only eight.

I also want to point out before I leave that point that the reason some of those pieces were left over and had to be carried over from one sitting to another was the fact that at the time there was a thing called the Martel incident in Ontario. Late last December the three House leaders were negotiating every day as to what the terms of reference of the Martel committee would be. We were negotiating every day as to what pieces of legislation the government would get then and what pieces of legislation would be held over until the next sitting or the next session, in fact until after the House, which had prorogued, was called back and there was a new throne speech.

1720

I want to point out that the government House leader, who didn't have to agree to any of this, agreed to hold over these pieces of legislation, especially the tax bills, because he talked about the tax bills from the previous budget: the retail sales tax bill—I believe it was Bill 130—and the gasoline tax bill, which I believe was Bill 86. He talked about what a shame it was that they had to be carried over. This is what he agreed to do. I would let you pass them.

However, the other party—there are three parties in this place—insisted that those two tax bills be carried over. All three of us agreed in the end.

That is how negotiation usually goes. Usually you don't get everything you want. I'm sure the government House leader is only all too aware of that. He voluntarily—I don't recall anybody holding a gun to his head—agreed to carry those pieces of legislation over to this sitting. That's why we had the 22 left, just in case the public is interested. To date we've disposed of 14 of them by unanimous agreement, voluntarily, by consensus, and we happen to have eight left that are carried over.

Now I want to deal with what's happened this spring, because I think it's important that the public know what we've been doing. We were supposed to come back here, according to the schedule of the calendar outlined in our standing orders, on March 9. The government decided it didn't want to return March 9. One of the reasons given was that March break fell the week of March 16—I'm being very fair here—and it didn't seem to make much sense to bring the House back on March 9, have a throne speech, start that debate, then go away for a week and then come back.

At one point in time we actually had consensus. Again, I must say the Liberal Party didn't want to agree to this consensus, but it finally did as part of the negotiation around the Martel committee and around what pieces of legislation would be carried over, despite the fact that the Liberal Party, to give it its due, steadfastly disagreed and always wanted to come back on March 19. One of the chips it had to give up in the bargaining process—because we all have to give up something to get something—was that it would agree to come back on March 23. All three House leaders agreed to come back to this place on March 23, as much as the Liberal Party did not want to.

Then, lo and behold, while we were on break we learned that the new session would not be starting on March 23, as agreed to by everybody, including the government House leader. There was some talk that the Legislature might then come back the following week, which was March 30, and that rumour went around for a few days. That didn't happen either. Eventually the government did call the Legislature back on April 6, the House reconvened and the throne speech was read.

If the government had such a chock-full legislative agenda, with all this important legislation that had to be passed, and if it knew that it was going to take a considerable length of time—because some of these pieces of legislation are fairly significant, especially Bill 40. Regardless of whether or not you agree with it, you have to admit that it is a major change to labour legislation in Ontario. You can't expect to pass that type of legislation on the nod. You know that it takes a considerable amount of time in debate in this place.

We have all these other important pieces that the government House leader says we're preventing him from introducing. We're not, because as I've explained, he can introduce them any day he wants to because he's in total control over that, as he is in introducing this motion. That's why we're debating this motion this afternoon instead of

legislation. He chose to debate this as opposed to dealing with some of his important legislation. He says he's going to keep on calling this order, and he's going to call it and call it until he thinks he has enough time in to invoke closure, cut off debate and shove it down our throats. That's his game plan. Then when he has his new little package of rules that limit debate, invoke closure and introduce time allocation, he'll be able to pass his labour bill or any other piece of legislation with a minimal amount of debate. That is what the objective is; let there be no mistake about that.

But if he had all these significant pieces of legislation, why wasn't he back here on March 9? He wasted the week of March 9; he wasted the week of March 23; he wasted the week of March 30. A month after he should have come back on April 6, exactly 28 days later, he shows up to read a new throne speech. All that aside, a month has been wasted; three weeks, actually, because there was March break in there.

When does he get around to introducing his new, as he says, significant pieces of legislation? Having made the argument that he has all these important pieces of legislation—indeed he must have, because it was a new throne speech, new principles and new stated objectives of the government—let me tell you when he got around to introducing some of his legislation. What did he introduce on the very important week of April 6, when he just couldn't wait to get back here to introduce these 121 pieces of legislation? He introduced one bill, Bill 1; that's a long way from 121. He just had six months off; actually seven, because he took an extra month off, he and his cabinet colleagues. He had just had six or seven months off—

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Six or seven?

Mr Eves: When did we last sit? Pardon me? Back up. He had just had four months off. Are you telling me that during those 15 or 16 weeks, however many weeks are in there, cabinet ministers didn't have time to draft all these new, important, significant pieces of legislation which they absolutely would have to have by the end of June? What were they doing during part of December, January, February, March and the first week of April? What were they doing when they were supposed to be drafting these significant pieces of legislation? They were in such a rush to do this that they introduced one bill the first week back, Bill 1, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act.

Then what did they do the next week, the week of April 13 to 16? Did they introduce the other 120 pieces of legislation they had to have passed? No. They introduced two pieces of legislation the next week.

Mr Stockwell: They doubled their workload.

Mr Eves: They're really working hard over there, those ministers. They got out two that week. I might point out that the two they managed to get out on April 15 were Bill 11, the Corporations Tax Amendment Act, giving a break to corporations for tax, and Bill 12, the Mining Tax Amendment Act, giving a break to mining companies for tax. Pretty controversial, heady stuff. "Nobody could pos-

sibly have any quarrel with those. We'll introduce those two safe ones this week."

Being exhausted by this hectic pace they've kept up, they've now had about 19 or 20 weeks to draft their 121 bills. Guess what they did the week of April 20 to 23.

Mr Stockwell: What?

Mr Eves: Zero. Absolutely no new bills introduced at all. Absolutely none.

Now they've been back for three weeks. They have 121 pieces of legislation, the government House leader says. They're just chock-full of ideas over there and they just can't wait to get this legislative agenda before the people. They've been off for four months. They've been back to work for three weeks and in three weeks they've managed to introduce three pieces of legislation—one, two, three. They had to take a rest. When you introduce two in one week, boy, you'd better take a week off. They introduced three bills in three weeks, after they came back a month late, and two of those are totally non-controversial, reducing the rate of taxation.

Now we get to the week of April 27. In the week of April 27 they introduced on budget day one bill, Bill 16, the Ontario Loan Act, which goes hand in hand with the budget. Now they've been back for four weeks. They say they have 121 bills that we're stopping them from introducing and they've introduced four bills in a month after they came back a month late, after they had 16 weeks off. Boy, they are busy little beavers indeed, but it's our fault that they can't get their legislation through. How can you get something through when it ain't even on the order paper and hasn't been drafted yet, when you've had five months to prepare it?

1730

We've been back to work for four weeks and we've had four bills introduced, three of which are totally non-controversial and very simplistic pieces of legislation. So now we get into May. You'd figure that by May they'd be hard at it, they'd be back, they'd be used to working, right? They worked so hard in the first four weeks, they introduced four bills. What do we do the fifth week back, the week of May 4 to 7? Zero. No legislation. Absolutely not one single government bill introduced. We've been back at work for five weeks, we've got four bills introduced and three are really basically housekeeping in nature.

Mr Elston: We're still waiting for the spring equinox.

Mr Eves: We're still waiting for those 121 important pieces of legislation. We're in the month of May now. Now we get to the week of May 11, and guess how hard they work in the week of May 11. Again they introduce zero, not one single piece of legislation that week either.

Mr Stockwell: That's way off. You people are workaholics.

Mr Eves: Boy, these are busy little beavers. They work so hard over there that they come back to work a month late. They've had five months off by now, because they've really done nothing in the first four weeks. Now they've been back to work for six weeks, and they've introduced four bills in six weeks and they say they have 121, so they still have 117 hiding somewhere under

somebody's desk, but they don't have the energy or the wherewithal to introduce them, let alone call the pieces of legislation that they already have on the order paper so we can deal with those.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Are the people of Ontario ever lucky.

Mr Eves: I hope the people of Ontario are watching, because I want them to understand Mr Cooke's rationale as to why he has to have these rule changes to get all this important legislation through so quickly, because they worked so hard, they came back a month late, and when he came back, in six weeks he got around to introducing four bills.

Mr Stockwell: What was their coffee bill, Ernie? They were up all night.

Mr Eves: The coffee bill was probably the biggest of them all.

Then we get to the week of May 18, and guess what happens that week? We've all worked so hard, we get a week off. It's called constituency week. We've been working so hard for six weeks that we've got four bills drafted, after we had four months off, and after we came back a month late and we worked our little fingers to the bone, so now we have to take a week off to go on vacation, because we've worked too hard. We've introduced four bills in six weeks. Makes sense.

Does the public have a lot of sympathy for Mr Cooke's position now? Now that they understand exactly how this place works and exactly how hard he and his colleagues have been working over there. We're now up to May 25 and we've introduced four of these 121 bills that he says he just has to get passed.

Ms Anne Swarbrick (Scarborough West): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I think some of the statements the member for Parry Sound is making at this time are the kinds of information that cause cynicism among the public about politicians. I know the member for Parry Sound is also a hardworking member of this provincial Parliament, and what the public doesn't understand is that there is a lot of work that MPPs do when they're not in this Legislature.

The Speaker: It's certainly a point of information for the chamber, but it is not a point of privilege. There's no particular privilege that's been lost, and the member for Parry Sound may continue with his remarks.

Mr Eves: I've only gotten to the week of May 25, and to answer the honourable member, I'm not suggesting that individual MPPs don't have constituency matters that they have to attend to and other things that they have to attend to.

But what I am trying to address is the urgency with which the government House leader now says he has to have these instant rules; like drop them with a teaspoon of something in a glass of water and stir them up and they're ready, the new rules, and we're going to have to drink this, whether we like it or not, because "We have 74 members. We got exactly 1% less of the popular vote to the decimal point than Frank Miller got in the election of 1985."

We know how well and in what high esteem some of my colleagues over there held Mr Miller in the election of 1985. You people were exactly 1% less popular on election day than Frank Miller was in 1985. Any time you need some humility, maybe you should think about that for a minute.

We're up to the week of May 25.

Interjection.

Mr Eves: You mean you wrote off a pile of ridings so you could plunk your votes down in certain ridings so you could get a majority out of your measly 36.9% of the vote. Is that what you mean? You wrote off the others?

Hon Mr Cooke: What did you get, Ernie?

Mr Eves: What percentage of the vote did I get? Over 50%.

Hon Mr Cooke: Your party.

Mr Eves: What percentage of the vote did your candidate get in my riding? I think he lost his deposit if I'm not mistaken. As a matter of fact, he finished fourth. The Green Party candidate finished ahead of your candidate.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: As I understand the rules, when members engage in debate in this House they speak to the Chair, they speak to the Speaker, they don't engage in casual dialogue across the floor. What's happening now is that the member is beginning to engage in casual dialogue.

The Speaker: Indeed, the member for Downsview has a valid point of order. I would ask the honourable member for Parry Sound to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr Eves: Mr Speaker, I will try to remember that. I just wanted to get that little aside in, but I want to get back to the business of the House, which is the week of May 25.

On the week of May 25 we got pretty busy indeed. We'd been off for a few months, we'd been back for six weeks. We had to take a week off because we were working so hard. We had four bills introduced in six weeks. So we got back here on the week of May 25 and on May 26 we introduced two bills in one day, but—there's a "but" to this—they were both the Education Amendment Act bills, Bills 20 and 21, and they were both part of what was previously Bill 125. So we didn't have to think very hard about them. We just had to take certain parts of Bill 125 and renumber them 20 and 21. But that took a long time to do that. That took about seven weeks to think that up and we finally introduced two parts of that former bill, which died on the order paper in December 1991.

Then we go to the next day and they were busy indeed the next day, May 27. They introduced five bills in one day. But two of those bills were again part of the previous Bill 125. They were the Colleges Collective Bargaining Statute Law Amendment Act, Bill 23, and the School Board Finance Statute Law Amendment Act, Bill 27. They actually came up with three new ones, though: the Parking Infractions Statute Law Amendment Act, Bill 25, the Gaming Services Act, Bill 26, and the Income Tax and Ontario Pensioners Property Tax Assistance Statute Law Amendment Act, Bill 31.

Now they figured: "If we're going to try to invoke these new rule changes and explain to the people how we need them so urgently and desperately, we're going to have to get even busier than we've been so far. Busy, busy, busy. We have to get more pieces of legislation because we said we had 121 and we know that we really don't, but we've got to do something. They're going to think we're crazy when we want to introduce these rule changes."

The week of June 1 they introduced the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act, Bill 32, arising out of the budget, no doubt, which of course was done on April 30, but we don't get around to introducing the bills arising out of the budget until over a month later on June 1: the Vehicle Transfer Package Statute Law Amendment Act, again arising out of the budget, Bill 34; the Special Education Statute Law Amendment Act, Bill 37, but there's a little catch with this one too, Mr Speaker. This is just a rewrite of the former Bill 114 which died on the order paper in December 1991. My, what original thinkers we are over there.

Then on June 3 we introduced two more bills, the Retail Business Holidays Amendment Act, that's just last Wednesday, by the way, which is the Sunday shopping bill that the Premier of the province made a glowing statement about and said we had to proceed as expeditiously as possible with this significant piece of legislation, Bill 38. There would be a free vote so we could put the uncertainty in Ontario about Sunday shopping behind us, so that every single one of 130 members could vote his or her own individual conscience and so we could let the people of Ontario know where they stand.

1740

How many times has that important bill that the Premier said would proceed expeditiously been called by the government House leader since last Wednesday? The answer is zero. He refuses to call it. He instead decides that he wants to deal with rule changes.

Also on June 3 we introduced the Ontario road safety bill, again another very controversial bill I'm sure will take months and months of debate in here, Bill 39.

Then on June 4, which was last Thursday, we got around to introducing the really controversial bill, the labour relations and employment standards bill, Bill 40.

We hear all these tales of woe: "We have 121 pieces of legislation, and woe is me, how will we ever get them all passed in the session we called back a month late, after we introduced four bills, three of which were insignificant, in the first six weeks of the session, and we worked so hard getting those four together we had to take a week off then. Now we've been back for seven weeks and we still only had four in, and we just rushed around, scurried around as fast as we could scurry, and we got 13 more done in the next two weeks."

Out of those 13, a good many were just former bills reincarnated by different bill numbers or they were very non-controversial bills, like the Ontario road safety bill, the parking infractions statute, the vehicle transfer bill etc, or they arose out of the budget or they were renumbered and taken as a part out of the former Bill 125, the education bill. That's why we need, I presume, all these important rule changes.

What have we done this week? We've introduced today the Agricorp bill by the Minister of Agriculture. Today, I should point out to the people out there, is a very important day, because today is the last day the government had to introduce bills it wanted passed in this sitting. Bearing in mind that they say they have 121 pieces of legislation to introduce, bearing in mind that they've only managed to introduce 17 of them, I would have thought we'd have had a flood of paper in here this afternoon. I'd have thought we'd still be introducing bills because we had another 104 to get ready.

Did that happen? We had one, one bill from the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Yesterday we had a Toronto Islands bill. Even the Toronto Islands bill wasn't an original thought, because it's going to replace Bill 171, the former Toronto Islands bill, but we didn't quite do that right and we had to change 22 things in it, I believe, so we had to introduce a new bill. So that's not a new piece of legislation either.

There are almost no new bills that this government has introduced.

Mr Murdoch: But we've got to change the rules.

Mr Eves: But we've got to change the rules to get them through in a hurry because they're so important.

"This labour bill was so important to us. Did we have it ready on March 9, when the House should have come back? No, we didn't have it ready on March 9. It was really important to us, though. It goes right to the crux of what the NDP stands for. It's part of our ideology. It's part of our philosophy. It's part of our principles. It's very important. We believe in public debate. We want it out there in front of the public as long as possible so there can be open, full and frank discussion about this very significant bill.

"Did we introduce it on March 9? No, we stayed home. Did we introduce it on March 16? No, we stayed home. Did we introduce it on March 23? No, we stayed home that week too. Did we introduce it on March 30? No, I guess we'll stay home another week. We're getting kind of tired. We'll wait till April Fool's Day goes by.

"Then in the week of April 6, when we finally come back a month late, did we introduce it that week, when we introduced one other bill? No. Did we introduce this really important labour bill in the week of April 13, when we introduced two other Mickey Mouse bills? No. Did we introduce it the week of April 20?

"It's really important to us though, this bill. We've got to have this sucker. It's really important. We've got to have it. It's going to change the whole outlook in the province of Ontario. It protects everybody.

"Did we introduce it in the week of April 13? No, we introduced two other bills, but we didn't get around to this one because it's too important to get around to. Did we introduce it in the week of April 30? We don't want to introduce anything that week. We're getting tired. We've introduced three bills in three weeks.

"Did we introduce it the week of April 27? No. It's budget week and we have to prop Floyd up and get all the hype up and have to have a lot of caucus meetings to talk

about the budget, how we're going to explain away a \$15-billion deficit. It's going to be tough to do. Won't have any time to introduce many bills that week. No time left. The Ontario Loan Act, we'll do that. It arises out of the budget. We've got to introduce it anyway."

"This really, really important labour bill that's going to protect every worker in the province of Ontario, that's going to change the whole outlook of the Ontario economy, it's so important, did we get around to it the week of May 4? No. Not only did we not get around to it, we didn't get around to anything at all."

The week of May 11 comes around and surely by now Mr Mackenzie, the Minister of Labour, must have this very significant bill ready. But no, not only does he not have that bill ready, nobody else has got any other bill ready either, so we have nothing introduced that week. "But it's really important that we get this, Mr Speaker. It's really important that it's out there for public consultation and comment so the public of Ontario have a chance to talk about it. It's so important that we can't get around to it that week either."

As I said, we get to the week of May 18 and we've worked so hard that we've introduced four bills, three of which are really insignificant, in six weeks, and now we've got to take the week off because we've worked so hard.

I do not understand why we need to change these rules.

When they do get around to introducing 13 bills, they all either arise out of the budget and they have to be done, or it is the former education bill, Bill 125, and we chop it up into four quarters and throw out four new ones, or we rewrite the Toronto Islands bill "because we didn't like the way it was written before, because we made 22 mistakes in it." Mind you, that's pretty good, because in another bill there were over 190 mistakes and we had to make 190 amendments to it.

Mrs Marland: The housing bill had 249 amendments.

Mr Eves: Pardon me. In Bill 121, the housing bill, as my colleague points out, there were 249 amendments. "We only made 249 mistakes in that one." Is it any wonder they don't introduce many bills? Their erasers are running out of rubber. They can't correct all these mistakes.

"But we need to get these rules passed, Mr Speaker. It's important that we change the rules because we have all this important legislation that absolutely has to be dealt with. That's why we've got to pass them in a skinny minute, Mr Speaker, without any debate."

Now I want to get around to House leaders' meetings. I don't want to talk about what goes on in House leaders' meetings, because we all have comments that we have to make and that has to be a pretty open and frank discussion and I'm not going to breach any confidences. But we have on occasion asked the government House leader for his list of "must have" legislation. You see, again for the people out there who have never been party to a House leaders' meeting, what happens at a House leaders' meeting, besides drinking the odd cup of coffee and eating the odd Danish, which the government House leader conveniently provides, and we appreciate that, is that we negotiate.

The government gives us its list of the legislative agenda, tells us what it would like to have dealt with during the next week, during the next four or five days of sitting, and the two House leaders of the two opposition parties respond as to whether we have caucused that particular matter yet or not. We respond as to how much time we think the debate will take, whether there will be a recorded vote, when the vote's likely to take place, and we try to do this stuff—and we usually do, well over 90% of the time—by consensus, which is the best way to operate this place.

1750

This is why this kind of irks me about this notice of motion with respect to the rule changes. Not only did we not receive any notice prior to the Globe and Mail coming out this Monday morning about it; we didn't have time to caucus it because, as anyone knows, caucus meetings are held on Tuesday mornings, so it would have been fairly difficult to caucus this item.

Usually, as a matter of courtesy, a government House leader will, at the very least, give his two opposition colleagues the right to caucus any piece of legislation, business of the government or government notice of motion before he calls it for debate in the Legislature under orders of the day.

After asking the government House leader for the "must have" list, we finally got the "must have" list two Thursdays ago, quite close to the end of the sessions.

Mr Elston: A week ago yesterday.

Mr Eves: Oh, pardon me. My colleague from the Liberal Party informs me it was only a week ago yesterday that we got this list.

We've had it for all of a week now and it has the list of "must have" legislation on it, all nicely typed up in the government House leader's office on official stationery. "On third reading we must have":

The Power Corporation Amendment Act: Well, they got that last Thursday. The Ottawa-Carleton amendment act: They got that last Thursday too. The Municipal Law Amendment Act: This is called the municipal omnibus bill. It's been floating around out there for about 18 months and there's one controversial part of that bill with respect to municipal debentures. The government has known for over a year that this is the only controversial part of that legislation, but it refuses to do anything about it. We have the co-op corporations amendment act.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Etobicoke West: Your colleague the member for Parry Sound has the floor.

Mr Eves: Anyway, we've indicated to the government House leader he can have Bill 166, the Co-op Corporations Statute Law Amendment Act, but he doesn't want to call it because he wants to deal with the rule changes instead. The Ontario Loan Act, Bill 16, he could probably have. The Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act, which was the first bill they did introduce after all when the House resumed the week of April 6, they haven't bothered to call again either. The Mining Tax Act and the Corporations

Tax Act, which give breaks to companies in certain sectors, we're prepared to give them those but they don't want to call them. They don't want to pass them; they want to deal with rule changes first. The colleges collective bargaining act: That's part of what used to be Bill 125. The Game and Fish Act has been sitting around for a long time; the education assessment act, Bill 27; the education act with respect to equity, Bill 21, and the Gaming Services Act.

They want third reading of every one of those bills but they don't want to call them. They want to deal with rule changes instead and then they want to call them. We've told them they can have most of those but they don't want them, Mr Speaker. If they want them, all they have to do is to call them.

Second reading: "We must have second reading and send out to standing committee during the intersession":

The Ontario labour relations act: They did introduce it; that's Bill 40 now. They know that that is going to be very controversial and they know it's very important. It's so important that they never got around to introducing it until last Thursday, June 4. They didn't introduce it on March 9, they didn't introduce it on March 16, they didn't introduce it on March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, April 20, April 27, May 4, May 11, May 18, May 25 or even June 1; they got around to it on June 4, "Because it's really important and we gotta get it," the same day, I'm sure, that just by coincidence they introduced and tabled, without telling anybody, the rule changes they have to have.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Parry Sound has the floor.

Mr Eves: "We also need for second reading," Mr Speaker, and these are significant pieces of legislation: The pay equity bill, Bill 168, its companion bill, the public service act, Bill 169—

Mr Elston: It's been introduced for a while.

Mr Eves: Which has been around for a while, as my colleague the Liberal House leader says, and quite rightly so. It's been around for a while. They know it's going to go to committee. They know there's going to be some debate. But at no time have we said we're going to try to prevent that legislation from going through the House. But we can't deal with it if the government House leader won't call it. It cannot be done.

Then we come to one that I presume does create a few problems for them, especially with the member for Welland-Thorold, called the auto insurance bill, Bill 164. That's been around for a while. We could've dealt with that. All these weeks that we were here doing nothing we could've dealt with that auto insurance bill.

I said to myself that we could've done it in March. We had four weeks in March we could've done that one, but we were too busy doing nothing. We could've done it four weeks in April, but we were too busy doing four other bills that were really rather insignificant. We could've done it four weeks in May, but we were too busy then too. The last couple of days in May we got busy.

We found about seven bills to introduce. But we didn't want to talk about the auto insurance bill because we

might be embarrassed by our colleague the member for Welland-Thorold. Wait until we get our new rules through first and we'll be able to shut him up. He will be able to talk for only 30 minutes. That's when we want to deal with that, when nobody can talk about it.

Then we have the London annexation bill, and that still hasn't been introduced. I have some sympathy for my colleague the government House leader about that particular piece of legislation because it is rather controversial in the London area. To give the government House leader his due, he is trying to work out a compromise solution and is trying to obtain a bill that will be equitable to all and that all parties will be able to support. I say to him, as I said to him this morning in the House leaders' meeting, that if he's able to do that I will be more than happy to let him have unanimous consent and we'll deal with that piece of legislation regardless of what standing order 66 says, which of course says you have to introduce any bills you want passed in the session by today, before the last two weeks of the sitting.

There's the building code, Bill 112. That's been around for a while as well. We would like to see that brought forward for some discussion so that as well can get out to committee over the summer and be dealt with etc, but they haven't called that one either. I don't believe that bill has ever been called since we came back here on April 6.

Then we have the Toronto Islands bill. To be fair to the government House leader, he did introduce a new piece of legislation yesterday on the Toronto Islands, because he has approximately 22 changes he'd like to make to the former Toronto Islands bill. He did get it in under the wire.

Then we have Bill 150, the worker ownership bill, which is out in committee now. We all know that legislation will take some debate and public discussion. That's moving and proceeding as it should through the normal channels around this place.

Then we also have these other pieces of legislation that are listed here, some of which I've talked about before: the vehicle transfer bill; the parking offences bill; the education omnibus bill; the vehicle transfer bill—that's on there twice; the education omnibus bill is on there twice as well—maybe they're not as busy as they think they are; the retail sales tax bill; the income tax bill, and the road safety agency bill, all of which we would be more than happy to deal with if the good government House leader would only give us the pleasure of calling those items so we could debate them here in this place.

The Speaker: I wonder if the honourable member for Parry Sound might find this to be an appropriate place to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr Eves, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Speaker, I've just been handed a notice about the business of the House pursuant to standing order 53 that I presume the government House leader is going to talk about after 6 o'clock.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Well, read the whole thing.

Mr Eves: I see here that on Monday we are going to be debating our motion to deal with the extended sitting times of the House, as is his privilege during the last two weeks of any sitting, from June 15 to June 22. Then we're going to resume debate on government motion 7, the changes to the standing orders.

On Tuesday, June 16, and June 17 and 18, we will continue the debate on the government notice of motion 7, changes to the standing orders, followed by—after we get done with the standing orders, I presume—Bill 40, Bill 38, Bill 168, Bill 169, Bill 164.

The Speaker: Will the honourable member for Parry Sound please resume his seat.

Hon Mr Cooke: The only thing the honourable House leader for the third party missed was that on the morning of Thursday, June 18, we'll debate ballot item 15 standing in the name of Mr Turnbull and ballot item 16 standing in the name of Mr Malkowski.

The Speaker: It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock Monday next.

The House adjourned at 1801.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, OStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber Etobicoke-Rexdale	Henderson, D. James Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	L ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest Fort William Fort York	Stockwell, Chris McLeod, Lyn Marchese, Rosario	PC L ND	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey Guelph	Murdoch, Bill Fletcher, Derek	PC ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre Halton North/-Nord	Sullivan, Barbara Duignan, Noel	L ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est Hamilton Mountain	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Miclash, Frank Wilson, Gary	L ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener Kitchener-Wilmot	Ferguson, Will Cooper, Mike	ND ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew Lawrence	Jordan, W. Leo Cordiano, Joseph	PC L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
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Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

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St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
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Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
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York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 15 June 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 15 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 15 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CARABRAM

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): It's once again that time: Carabram weekend in Brampton. It is a cultural festival that started in 1983 with four pavilions and has worked its way up to 19 this year.

This festival is allowed to take place and is as successful as it is because of the many volunteers in the community who give endlessly of their time to make it a success. In fact, they start immediately after the Carabram celebrations are over and work tirelessly, not just preparing for the festival but also fund-raising. They do this through bingos. Hopefully casino gambling will not take away from this very valuable way of funding their whole operation.

This year it will be held on July 3, 4 and 5, Friday through Sunday. I invite all members to participate. There are 19 pavilions and you can come and savour the sights, sounds and tastes all around the world without leaving the city of Brampton.

I urge you to respond by thanking these volunteers. Obviously the province of Ontario and the city of Brampton would be in great need without these volunteers, who are able to serve us so endlessly. Carabram is a festival I would urge the government to look seriously at. It's one that could be a model not just for this province but also for the country. These volunteers are neighbours. They come together at no cost to the government or any other public body. They are able to bring us closer together to understand one another's diversities and similarities. I urge you to come to Carabram.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I protest the flawed process that has led to the infliction of 57 candidate landfill sites on the people of the communities in the regions of York, Peel and Durham. The flawed process is the result of having a Minister of the Environment who is living with a totalitarian vision, one that is not based on reality. Did she think she could employ draconian measures to force people to accept having a \$40-million landfill site in their community?

From the beginning the Minister of the Environment has dictated the way things will be done. She rammed through Bill 143. She tried to deny public consultation. She refused to release the candidate sites until the bill was passed, and she silenced the communities to be affected. The New Democratic majority refused to pass any amendments put forth by the opposition. They closed their minds to the advice of the presenters. The bill is now law and the Minister of the Environment has effectively eliminated any options to waste management including rail shipment somewhere, incineration, or any other scientific method.

Today I tell the people living in communities such as Unionville, Whitevale, Sandhill in the town of Caledon, and other places that we have a government on our hands that is doing the wrong thing. They've been betrayed by this government.

The Ministry of the Environment is out of control. They have no solution to the disposing of waste and have refused to explore options. They selected landfill sites in environmentally sensitive areas like the Oak Ridges moraine and the Rouge Valley, and they selected sites in the middle of communities or on valuable farm land. This government doesn't care. This government needs to get going somewhere, but not stay around any longer.

ENVIRONMENT DAY

Ms Margaret H. Harrington (Niagara Falls): Last week Niagara Falls hosted the sixth annual Environment Day held by the Citizens for a Clean Environment. This local group, led by Al and Penny Oleksuk, has been very active over the last few years on many issues, including pressuring the Minister of the Environment and the Norton company to clean up a chemical spill in the river, known locally as the Chippewa blob.

Environment Day featured many displays by schools, government, environment groups and industry. The panel discussion brought Professor Michael Dickman from Brock University, activist Pat Potter, who operates the environmental vessel called the NIMBI, Now I Must Become Involved, together with Bob Sorley, president of Lubrizol, a local company, for some real discussion.

I want to honour today the work of the CCE over the past more than 10 years of striving to change public attitudes. The environment movement has to keep up the pressure to make change. We as government can't do it without you, the public, with us.

I also have a message and a present for Environment Minister Ruth Grier from Pat Potter of Port Maitland: "This is the way we want to drink pop, in refillable bottles straight from the 1950s. I hope you will agree that refilling or reuse is better than recycling."

DONATION BY PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS

Mr D. James Henderson (Etobicoke-Humber): I hope members will share my view that sound projects of Third World assistance are not only acts of altruism. Of course, if they are well conceived, they benefit the receiving country directly, but by contributing to fiscal soundness and a better standard of life for all peoples of the world, we build a healthier and safer international community and a stronger and more vital world economy. That of course benefits Canadians as present and future trading partners of Third World developing nations.

I am rising, therefore, to thank a number of Canadian pharmaceutical companies and other suppliers for their generous donations of Third World assistance and to applaud their generosity and foresight. The companies concerned

are Apotex Inc, Canadian Medical Aid Programme, Life Brand Pharmaceuticals, Nu-Pharm Inc, Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc, Technilab Inc, and especially Novopharm and Genpharm, whose generosity was especially outstanding.

To all these Canadian pharmaceutical companies and suppliers, for their humanitarian service and outstanding generosity, our sincere appreciation.

1340

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): Last week a 16-year-old Kingston girl was abducted, apparently sexually assaulted and held captive by a forensic patient of the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. Thanks to the joint efforts of the Kingston police and the Ontario Provincial Police, the man was arrested, still holding the young girl captive 23 hours after the reporting of the abduction and almost 24 miles from its site.

Many stories are circulating in the Kingston area dealing with the circumstances of the abduction and assault, including a contention that following her abduction the victim was taken to the psychiatric hospital and sexually assaulted on hospital property.

Last year, three months after a murder on the grounds of the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, I asked the Minister of Health if she had taken any action to ensure that released murderers would no longer be considered appropriate community escorts for murderers currently incarcerated in forensic psychiatric facilities. She had no answer then and to my knowledge has done nothing about a situation that significantly contributed to that murder occurring.

In the aftermath of the Kingston attack, Mayor Helen Cooper and her council and the citizens of Kingston are looking for answers and explanations. I urge the Minister of Health to, unlike her response to the Brockville murder, quickly, openly and honestly meet that request and address the concerns of the people of Kingston.

RURAL ROUTES '92

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): I rise today to invite all members of this House to attend Rural Routes '92 in Woodstock on Thursday, June 25, and Friday, June 26. A schedule of events is being sent to each member's office.

Rural Routes '92, dubbed Ontario's showcase of resource planning by its organizers, is designed to help create a better understanding of concerns relating to resource use and community and rural planning. It will be held at the Woodstock Fairgrounds on Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm and on Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.

There will be a variety of exhibits, workshops and presentations on land use and planning, environmental and conservation concerns and innovations. It costs \$10 per day per vehicle, \$5 per day per walk-in or \$3 per day on a bus, including mini-vans.

There will be a number of bus tours departing from the fairgrounds throughout the two-day event to farms in Oxford county and surrounding areas. Each of the tours will include a variety of farmstead, resource management and rural community development issues. These visits to the

back roads of southwestern Ontario offer more than a pleasant sightseeing option. They present an excellent opportunity to learn about the efforts to improve soil and water conservation, to see at first hand how the thorny issues of land and waste management are being handled and how our smaller communities are responding to such pressing social and economic issues as rural day care and economic development.

In conclusion, I'd like to congratulate the organizers for their efforts to present a top-notch program for this two-day event.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr Charles Beer (York North): Thousands of residents of York region are upset and angry. The issue is waste disposal or, in more poetic language, garbage dumps. The question we in York region ask is, why does the Minister of the Environment continue to insist that York region take, on top of its own waste, that of Metropolitan Toronto?

We also ask, why does the minister continue to refuse to examine other options and alternatives? Why has she ruled out any role for incineration? We all recognize that incineration is not the sole answer, but it can certainly be part of the mix in responding to garbage disposal. Germany and Sweden are but two countries that have demonstrated how incineration can be part of the answer to dealing with waste. We continue to ask why she has refused to allow the Kirkland Lake proposal to be put before an environmental review to see if it would also be part of the answer.

It is the minister's adamant and arrogant approach which will force a new dump site on York region, even larger than the one at Keele Valley.

Incredibly, in the four proposed sites set out in King township we have some of the best dairy farms in the province. King township has stated clearly in its official plan that it wishes to maintain its rural heritage. Surely, developing a megadump is not the answer.

The government owes York region some clear answers and new alternatives.

CURRENCY REGULATION

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Later this afternoon I will be introducing a private member's bill entitled Drop the Penny Act, 1992. This act would create a new acceptable business practice respecting cash transactions in Ontario by permitting cash amounts for goods and services to be rounded up or down to the nearest nickel.

I think most people will agree with me that the penny has become little more than a public nuisance. Pennies are no longer worth their weight in gold or any precious commodity. They are a cumbersome, annoying monetary unit and make little sense considering the cost of producing them, the time spent counting them and their trivial purchasing power.

What many people will not be aware of is that it costs one and a half cents to produce a Canadian penny and that there are about a billion of them produced each year. In addition to saving a lot of aggravation and bother, drastically

reducing the use of pennies would save the Canadian Mint nearly \$5 million a year.

Some will immediately claim that this is a federal matter, and they are correct if you are talking about a ban or an order to cease mintage and usage of the penny. However, it is possible for Ontario to permit the business practice of rounding up or down to the nearest nickel in a cash transaction, thereby drastically reducing the use and burden of the penny. A move towards a more sterling currency will be appreciated by all.

CHRIS HADFIELD

Mr Bob Huget (Sarnia): It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House today and acknowledge the accomplishments of Major Chris Hadfield. Major Hadfield remembers being inspired in his childhood by the first manned flight to the moon and has been named one of Canada's four new astronauts.

Born in Sarnia only 32 years ago, Major Hadfield has accomplished much in his career with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He has won many awards for Canada as a fighter pilot and graduated top of the class from the US Air Force Pilot School. He is currently an integral part of the F-18 departure flight tests.

The Hadfields have a history of flying. Chris's father, Richard, is a former pilot for the old Sarnia-St Clair Air Services and Great Lakes Airlines. He also flew for Dow Chemical. The family no longer lives in Sarnia but maintains a connection with Lambton county by owning a cottage on Stag Island.

Major Hadfield's selection to the astronaut program came after a gruelling process. He was chosen, along with the other new astronauts, by the Canadian Space Agency from 5,330 applications.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to Major Hadfield and ask all members of this House to join with me in congratulating one of Canada's superachievers, Sarnia-born Major Chris Hadfield.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wonder if we might think of extending the response time for opposition parties, bearing in mind that the Premier has an extremely important statement to be made today with respect to the Constitution and that there is also a statement being delivered today by the Minister of Housing.

While both are equally important, I think the nature of the first-mentioned will perhaps require an extension of a little bit of time so that both my leader, Lyn McLeod, and also the leader of the third party or his representative would be able to adequately address some of the items raised by the statement of the Premier.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I appreciate the point of order. We require unanimous agreement. Agreed? Agreed.

1350

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOGEMENTS À PRIX ABORDABLES

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): Il me donne grand plaisir de donner aux députés de l'Assemblée législative des nouvelles sur les allocations aux logements à but non lucratif.

The Ministry of Housing today has given the go-ahead to more than 100 non-profit housing sponsors to work on 6,500 non-profit homes across Ontario. These non-profit homes are being built in 44 communities across the province as part of the Ontario non-profit housing program announced in last year's budget.

Last October I announced the first 3,500 approvals from this 10,000-unit program and today I am pleased to announce the second phase.

We have allocated 10,000 non-profit homes in less than one year. That means 10,000 new, affordable homes for Ontarians and thousands of jobs for workers in the construction and related industries.

This spring there were more than 28,500 non-profit and cooperative homes under construction in communities all over the province. These homes mean jobs. This year, non-profit housing will provide more than 38,000 jobs in construction and other related industries, and there will be more jobs when the sponsors I have announced today are ready to build. The non-profit homes today getting the go-ahead today will provide an additional 11,000 jobs in communities across this province.

Our commitment to a job-creation and building affordable housing program is a continuing commitment, and there will be more job creation when we begin delivering the Jobs Ontario homes fund, the 20,000 units of non-profit housing we announced in this year's budget.

I'd like members of this House to know that people from across this province fought hard for those units. I received hundreds of letters before the budget, letters from people living in non-profit housing, from workers and from a range of small businesses; they all rely on non-profit housing.

The units we're announcing today will be built under the direction of sponsors from community-based housing sectors, and that includes municipal and private non-profits and housing co-ops. At this stage, sponsors can now prepare for construction: They can hire consultants and architects and start the planning approvals process.

Today's announcement brings us one step closer to the official opening of 6,500 more affordable homes in communities across the province. These units will house people who cannot find homes in the private market for a variety of reasons. They may not be able to afford a place to live or they may have special needs like the single mothers living at Massey Centre here in Toronto or the seniors living at Au Chateau in Sturgeon Falls.

I know many of the members in this House have attended opening ceremonies of new non-profit buildings in their own communities. Last week I had the pleasure of

opening a new section of Au Chateau in Sturgeon Falls. The residents there have built a community where they can live in their own homes and still have the security and help they need to preserve their dignity and independence. I think that's what non-profit housing is all about: helping people in ways the private market cannot.

Today I visited another development. It's 28 units. It's in the College and Spadina area. The residents will be street people, and some of them are now working on the site, which is a historic building. So in that development we're creating homes for those in need, we're creating construction work for some of the very people who have been on the street and will be looking for affordable housing in the development on which they're working, and we're preserving a building which has a history of its own.

I'm proud of what the ministry and this government are doing for people looking for affordable housing. When we invest in non-profit housing we're investing in the future, because non-profit housing we're approving now will be a source of affordable housing for generations to come.

C'est un investissement pour le futur de l'Ontario.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM RÉFORME CONSTITUTIONNELLE

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, I'm tabling in the House today the so-called Status Report of the Multilateral Meetings on the Constitution, the rolling draft as of June 11, 1992, and the possible elements of political accords which have been provisionally agreed upon between a number of governments.

I want to talk to this House about the Constitution again today, and I've had the opportunity to speak briefly to the Leader of the Opposition and to the member for Parry Sound, the House leader for the third party, with regard to my statement today and also with regard to where exactly we are in these discussions. I want to take this opportunity to speak to the House about the Constitution because last Thursday my colleagues across the country and I completed an important and productive phase in the process of constitutional renewal.

After a 10-day break, during which I made my last statement to this House—and I appreciate that this has a certain quality of a continuing saga which I'm presenting to the House—we reconvened in Ottawa last Tuesday for three days to continue the discussions we had not completed in Toronto. The three days were productive. In particular, some interesting new ideas came forward on the Senate, which I'd be glad to answer questions on. So for the first time since these discussions began there is now fluidity and movement on this issue, which is a prerequisite for finding a solution.

It is important to convey to all of you something about the dynamics of these discussions. You should know that all the participants in the process are dedicated to achieving a package of reforms that will help keep the country together and will allow Canada to function well socially and economically.

Everyone has agreed that the current Senate needs to be replaced. Finding further consensus has been difficult.

The amending formula in the current Constitution may well point the way: On some issues, all premiers have equal say; on others we rely on the formula of seven provinces representing 50% of the population.

L'Ontario a en outre affirmé qu'une nouvelle Chambre de deuxième niveau ne doit pas avoir la possibilité de bloquer le fonctionnement de nos institutions fédérales. Le défi que nous devons relever pour l'avenir sera de créer de nouvelles manières pour les gouvernements de coopérer et de mieux concerter leur action, et non simplement de créer des mécanismes de contrôle et d'équilibre.

I want to reiterate that in English. We have consistently taken the view—and I'm pleased to say that in this notion I've had the consistent support of both opposition parties and spokespeople at the conferences—that we do not want to see a second chamber producing a deadlock in our federal institutions. The challenge for the future is to create new ways for governments to cooperate and work better together, not to simply create a series of checks and balances. I think this is a very fundamental point.

Beyond the fundamental goal of keeping Canada united, however, the participants do not always have exactly the same view as to what is best for Canada, for all the regions and for all Canadians. These differences are sincere and deeply held views about the appropriate balance in the federation between the central government and the provinces and about the best way for a democracy and the economy to function in a renewed Canada.

What all participants in the process now have to do almost every day is to represent the interests and aspirations of their people and their governments, while working in good faith to find accommodation and compromise.

As I've said inside and outside this House, I believe the challenge is to construct a package that is inclusive of provinces, regions, communities and individuals.

The results of the work of premiers, ministers and aboriginal leaders over the past 12 weeks have been released in a status report. Along with this brief statement I'm making today, I'm now tabling this status report so that all members of this House could read it and share it with their constituents, with the goal of hearing from them in return.

As you will see when you read this report, the work is not yet finished and the results are provisional. But the package has come a long way; it is 90% there. In fact, progress has been made on every single issue on the constitutional renewal agenda. With continuing dedication to finding a compromise and some more hard work by all the participants, we should be able to complete this constitutional round successfully within the time available.

Canadians are now asking—and I'm sure they're asking all across the province of Ontario—what the next step is and what the plans are to get the last 10% in place. For my part I continue to believe that the best way to reform the constitution in a federal state is through multilateral negotiations. Governments and aboriginal leaders must continue to be fully involved in the process to protect what has been achieved and to present a complete settlement to the Canadian people.

As you know and as the document I am tabling emphasizes, what we've been working on is a series of

provisional—not final—agreements. Each of the compromises we have reached is, by necessity, dependent on the rest of the package, and of course it's going to be subject to further refinement. This is why the constitutional reform process must continue to involve all participants fully. That is the most effective way to build on the consensus already established.

As well, the continuation of multilateral negotiations is crucial to the success of this round because the ultimate goal is the ratification of a reform package. To ratify constitutional amendments, provincial legislatures as well as the federal Parliament must pass resolutions approving the proposals. I want to stress this point: Under the current Constitution, this is the only way reforms can be successfully concluded. To have the buy-in, support and approval of provincial legislatures is, in my view, essential for this process to come full circle.

1400

The full involvement of the provinces in finalizing a package is the best guarantee of their legislative support. After a time for reflection and listening to the public, it's my view that the Prime Minister or Mr Clark should call a meeting of all delegations, including Quebec, to take stock, to review what was done, what remains to be done and to agree on how the multilateral process should proceed from here to ratification. We must now focus our eyes and our energies on this target of ratification, of getting it done. Getting it done is something all Canadians want to see happen this year in 1992.

During this time, members of the governments will be doing a lot of listening. We'll also be talking to colleagues in other provinces and the federal government to share ideas on how these outstanding issues might be resolved.

In the weeks to come, we intend to continue the very productive cooperation we've had with representatives of both opposition parties who've joined us as members of the Ontario delegation to all the meetings so far. I have deeply appreciated their participation, their commitment to the process and the very real help, advice and perspective they've given us throughout. I cannot say enough about how much all of us in Ontario have benefited from this approach, from our ability to work together to make sure this is not a partisan issue.

Mr Speaker, this week is for discussion and consultation. I will continue to keep this House informed and listen to your responses. I look forward to your advice and I hope, needless to say, for your continuing commitment and support.

RESPONSES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Housing. This is one more time when this government is using smoke and mirrors and big numbers, consistently big numbers, to try to delude the people of this province that it is actually acting. I'd like to talk about some of those numbers and what they really mean. First of all, the minister proudly says that there are "28,500 non-profit and cooperative homes under

construction in communities all over Ontario." This was not the result of an NDP program; this is the Liberal program of over two years ago, *Homes Now*, that they are finally acting on and creating jobs with.

Second, she talks with pride about how they've finally "allocated 10,000 non-profit homes in less than one year." Those 10,000 homes were promised over a year ago in last year's budget, yet it is only now, some 14 months later, when they're finally allocating the second part, the 6,500 homes. Then they say that these 6,500 units "will provide an additional 11,000 jobs in communities across this province." That is true, but not this year. Any construction worker out there waiting for relief from these 6,500 units will not find jobs today and they won't find them this year.

Third, she talks about the 20,000 Jobs Ontario homes. Again, this was announced in this year's budget but it will not provide one job this year. What we need are those construction jobs now. One could consider this delay worth while if, for instance, the Minister of Housing announced that she was studying the effectiveness of the program or studying whether what they're doing is actually meeting the need, but she has not done this. She has not made any attempt to speed up the approvals process to cut the red tape and the bureaucracy.

This government has said that all its ammunition is going to be in one pocket and that is what it has done. It's going to be non-profit and co-op homes. It has ignored the rest of the housing framework. It has ignored the fact that housing starts for ownership homes in this province is at an all-time low compared to what we wanted it to be, that they are on the decline. It has done nothing for this. It has not encouraged the rent-geared-to-income programs to provide immediate need to those who need shelter and need it now.

So, Mr Speaker, all I can say is that this is one more example of smoke and mirrors and big numbers to say that this government is indeed doing nothing.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): I'm pleased to have an opportunity to respond to the Premier's statement on the constitutional talks and once again express appreciation for his bringing to this House a regular update on the progress being made at that negotiating table.

I appreciate the fact that considerable effort is going into overcoming some of the potential areas for impasse. I recognize that much of the effort over the past week has focused on the question of the Senate and how the Senate can be reformed. As I've indicated to the Premier, I'm not quite sure how the Ontario proposal to abolish the Senate and replace it with an equal number of additional representatives in the House of Commons is likely to meet with agreement, particularly of the western provinces for which this issue of Senate reform is such a critical issue. But I do recognize, having said that, that the matter of abolition of the Senate might strike a somewhat sympathetic chord in many other quarters.

I appreciate the fact that there is a very creative search for solutions going on and that there should be a willingness

to explore any possible alternatives which could lead to resolution.

I want to express to the Premier some growing concern about the kind of atmosphere of crisis management that's beginning to prevail. In an atmosphere in which there is a sense of urgency that leads to late-night sessions behind closed doors, the kinds of solutions that can emerge from those kinds of sessions too often can be not thoroughly enough explored, not carefully enough considered, not broadly enough examined. I feel such solutions could potentially be a recipe for disaster.

Nevertheless, again I would say that I think those kinds of alternatives, the kinds of alternatives that were being put forward to deal with this issue of Senate reform last week, deserve consideration and they deserve considerable open discussion. The issue of Senate reform may not be one which catches popular attention very often, but Senate reform done badly, it seems to me, could leave us with something less than an ineffective Senate; it could in fact render this country virtually ungovernable.

This issue of Senate reform has to be an important focus. I wonder if the Premier might consider calling together again the people from this Legislature who have spent so much time on our committee on the Constitution to begin to examine in some detail the various proposals that are put forward, not in any way wanting to delay the discussions that are taking place between constitutional ministers and first ministers, but to begin to look in a more detailed way at the impact of certain proposals and what that impact would be on Ontario. I feel that might give us a bit of a head start in the kind of informed discussion that needs to take place among the Ontario electorate.

The second area of concern I would like to raise with the Premier this afternoon is one I've touched on in previous responses; that is, whether or not this government is really preparing for the possibility of an early national referendum or for the possibility of some Ontario alternative should a national referendum not be called. From anything we hear—and I admit it's a little bit in the realm of rumour right now—the federal government is in fact preparing for a national referendum and could be in a position to call a national referendum on very short notice.

I wonder if the Premier could tell us whether he has an assurance that the kind of time for discussion and consideration at a provincial level before ratification is called for is time that will in fact be given to the provinces by the federal government. Does he have that assurance from the Prime Minister, that we will not suddenly find ourselves in a position of having to respond to a national referendum? Is his government preparing now to know how we can ensure the Ontario public will have an opportunity to be fully informed on the proposals that are ultimately reached as part of a constitutional package? Will there be forums created where there can be some reasoned debate of those proposals? Will there really be an opportunity for careful consideration of whatever question might be posed in a national referendum? Whatever that question might be, this is clearly a very unique and very critical question.

I don't think any of us should make the mistake of assuming easy passage either in Ontario or elsewhere in

the country. I think it would be a very considerable error if we were just to hope that somehow people would respond with an emotional surge of optimism, almost a response to the kind of national spirit that we hope the celebration of our 125th birthday will engender.

1410

All of us hope there will be that kind of positive response from Canadians to the future of this country, but I believe it's absolutely essential that this government do everything possible now, even at what may seem to be a somewhat early stage, because the proposals aren't finalized, to prepare the ground for that kind of informed discussion, careful consideration, and eventually, hopefully, positive response.

I don't think there's much question that people in this province are anxious to see a resolution. Personally, I believe a majority of people in this province want to provide support to a strong and united Canada, but I also believe the people of this province want to have a final say in giving their consent to the proposals which will govern the future of this country.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I rise to respond to the Minister of Housing's statement on the acceleration of the non-profit housing policy of this government. I must say that we in our party find it rather astounding that this party and this government would continue on with the policy of non-profit housing, specifically when it has restricted funds for hospitals, universities, schools, school boards, and more important, social services.

The policy with respect to non-profit housing—and it has proven to be a very expensive policy—continues to accelerate and yet in these other areas there have been major cutbacks. This government refuses to re-examine the focus that has been taking place with non-profit housing, notwithstanding the facts that have been produced that show it's too expensive a policy to embark on.

I note, for example, on the first page of the minister's statement where she says, "At this stage, sponsors can now prepare for construction—they can hire consultants and architects and start the planning approvals process." It's this very process that we oppose, the very fact that developers, lawyers, accountants, consultants and architects are going to be charging top dollar in a market where the subsidy program would clearly be more beneficial and faster for the people of this province who need a form of shelter assistance.

We in this party, the Progressive Conservative Party, have put forward a more efficient, equitable and cheaper alternative in the form of a shelter allowance program. The cost of not only setting up this housing but also the annual assistance is cost-prohibitive. Clearly the cost of subsidizing this non-profit housing is extremely high. Information we have from the ministry's own staff, that it's in excess of \$425 million a year, is probably quite conservative. The annual subsidy for a typical non-profit project is approximately \$11,000 per unit and approximately \$13,750 per unit for the 80% of the units that may be rent-assessed.

In our view shelter allowances are clearly more equitable because they give similar assistance to people with similar needs, can be delivered faster, can apply to a far broader selection of rental units and allow people to remain in the housing of their choice.

Non-profit housing, on the other hand, helps only those people who are lucky enough to get a unit. It neglects those on the waiting list who are too discouraged to apply. It's slow to respond to the need because the housing must become vacant or be built. It requires a subsidized tenant to move to a specific project, which we find inexcusable.

How can the minister stand in this House and be proud of the fact that she knows it will take years to actually provide a roof over anyone's head when our subsidy program would provide assistance now? Our subsidy program helps more people, and for fewer tax dollars, than this expensive and wasteful non-profit housing program. Our party assists people. This government, on the other hand, assists the wealthy developers, the consultants and the lawyers.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): I am pleased to respond on behalf of our party to the statement made today by the Premier with respect to the state of negotiations on the Constitution.

I would first like to point out that a great deal of progress has been made if one looks at the status report of the multilateral meetings on the Constitution. I think the fact must not be forgotten that there are many people who represent many different regions and areas of Canada who are approaching this in a very sincere spirit of generosity and cooperation. It's all too easy, I think, to focus in on what has not been accomplished as opposed to what has been accomplished.

If anything, I'd like to stress that now is not the time to create an atmosphere of crisis. I think we must proceed on a positive plane towards resolving the differences we have among many different provinces, many different peoples and many different regions in this country.

If one talked to the average Ontarian about Senate reform and what it means to him or her, I think you would get the response, "Not very much, thank you very much," other than that it probably usurps about \$100 million to \$120 million of the taxpayers' money a year in Canada and doesn't, at least to them, seem to serve any useful purpose whatsoever. While it's fine for a lot of us to say personally that we advocate its abolition—I'm sure many of us in this place do—I think you have to realize the sensitivities and the importance this issue has for other regions of the country, the west and the Maritime provinces in particular.

We have many different proposals on the table as to how to deal with this. Of course we have the triple E proposal, the equal proposal, the equitable one, what's now being referred to as the Romanow formula or proposal about a different, weighted voting system. Perhaps some spinoff or some version of that may ultimately reach approval of the first ministers and the various provinces and regions in Canada.

The Premier points out in his statement on page 5 that, after a time of reflecting and listening to the public, meetings of the provinces should be called; the ministers should reconvene. I would like to stress that perhaps we've gone as far as we can go with the current type of negotiating rounds that have been going on and that we should be trying to stress a first ministers' meeting to deal with these crucial remaining issues, because at the end of the day any agreement is not going to be ratified and these most difficult issues are not going to be resolved unless we have the participation of the first ministers across this country, as well as native leaders, of course.

Quebec must be brought back into the process. Obviously, the sooner the province of Quebec is brought back into the process and is at the table, the more rapidly we're going to be able to resolve our differences and come to a proper resolution of the matter.

I would stress that Ontario should be taking a leadership with respect to this, and that although we sometimes face a lot of criticism by provinces in other parts of Canada, I think previous administrations and premiers have always taken a leadership role. When you think back to Robarts and Davis and even Mr Peterson, they all took leadership roles, being careful—I realize it's a very fine line you have to walk as the Premier of this province—not to offend or alienate other regions in this country.

I would also like to add a couple of final comments, Mr Premier. Yes, you have had our commitment to the process. That does not mean, of course, our unqualified stamp of approval or support for every single position you or the province might have taken at some of these meetings.

I would like also to talk for a moment about the issue of a referendum here in Ontario, because I strongly believe, having gone through the Meech Lake process and Meech Lake 2 or the amended version, whichever you want to refer to it as, that at the end of the day the people of Ontario, as indeed the people all across Canada, are going to have to be happy with whatever the first ministers agree upon. I can't stress this too strongly. I know my leader has urged this and the Leader of the Opposition has also mentioned this point today. Ultimately, at the end of the day, the people must decide. Thank you very much.

MINISTERIAL INFORMATION

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise to ask for unanimous consent for the Premier to make a statement on the report by Stephen Lewis. As you'll know, Mr Speaker, this is the third day on which we in the opposition have expected some indication by the government of a stance, or at least an acknowledgement of Mr Lewis's report made to the government. Mr Lewis had a press conference. We expected it Thursday; in fact, we were informed so. We're informed that it would, again, be today. I would ask now that you put the question for unanimous consent to have the leader of this government, Mr Rae, give us a statement concerning that important report.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, in response to the point of order, I share the sense of urgency that's expressed by

the member for Bruce, and I want to give him my assurance that, after some discussions with my cabinet colleagues today and tomorrow morning, I'll have a statement to make to the House at 1:30 tomorrow.

1420

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I thank the Premier for that advice. I wonder if you might then ask for unanimous consent for the people of this House to listen to the government House leader tell us a little about the Municipal Affairs policy announcement he made on the weekend in London. He had indicated that he was entertaining changes to the London-Middlesex bill, which, as you know, gave rise to a series of interruptions of the House last week as I inquired of you whether its status was such that he could compel its passage even though it were introduced into this place in the last eight days of the session.

The member for Windsor-Riverside has made at least a couple of announcements on the weekend, and now that the policy of the government apparently is clear, I ask for unanimous consent for the member for Windsor-Riverside, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, to tell us what story they are peddling today.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Do we have unanimous agreement for a statement? No?

Interjections.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: As you know, we are now in the course of discussing rule changes, the rules which have appeared in front of you and in front of all of us with respect to how this place is going to be conducted in the future. I say "will be" because the people on this side of the House acknowledge that the numbers are such that once this motion gets placed to a vote, it is but a matter of simple counting one after the other. The fact is that we in the opposition will be inundated by the hordes on the government side of the floor.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to tell me whether it is your view that the role of the Speaker will in fact be curtailed by the current proposed change to standing order 45(a). With respect to 45(a), which is currently in—and I will read just a portion of it—there is a particularly critical sentence which really highlights the role of the Speaker in protecting the minority. These words are as I repeat them now:

"Unless it appears to the Speaker that such motion is an abuse of the standing orders of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question shall be put forthwith...."

The proposed standing order 45 as brought forward by the government House leader now omits any reference whatsoever to the abuse of the standing orders or in fact to any reference with respect to infringement of the rights of the minority.

I stand here now because it has been, in my sense, a privilege of each member of this House to be able to speak not only within the realms of the standing orders but, in a

sense, within the ambit of the common law which has governed the operation when the standing orders are silent.

It has always been the position of this House and of every Speaker I have had the pleasure of serving with that the minority rights are to be guarded by the Chair: by you or your successor. In fact, it seems to me that the way this is written it is seen to be a direction to the Speaker that he or she should in the future disregard that particularly critical rule of the operation of this House.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to provide me with some guidance with respect to how the new standing order would be read, were it adopted. I know you might say this is hypothetical, but since these are about to be thrown at us, I should like your assistance in determining whether the Chair would see its very important role in protecting the rights of the minority as being abused by the elimination of this particularly important sentence from the proposed standing order 45.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce, I appreciate the matter he has raised and, of course, the interest all members have in the current standing orders and in the debate which is under way with respect to new orders.

Indeed, I don't believe the member was suggesting that the Speaker would have an opportunity to be involved in the debate, although of course your Speaker follows very closely the debate itself and reads Hansard afterwards to determine exactly what was said.

The matter he addresses is one which he and others may wish to consider during the course of the debate. I note that, because it's a motion before the House, it is amendable and members may wish to consider amendments to various rules that have been put forward.

Finally, he is absolutely right. I assume that every member of the House realizes that the standing orders must be protected by the Speaker, and that the Speaker has as his or her first concern protecting the rights of the minority on the principle that the majority will always take care of itself, but I appreciate the approach by the member.

ORAL QUESTIONS

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. On May 26 the Premier called a meeting with the Ontario Hospital Association to talk about its labour negotiations with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. At the meeting the Premier asked the OHA to hold off on its scheduled arbitration hearings and return to the bargaining table for further mediation of outstanding issues. The Premier indicated that he did not believe it was in the best interests of the parties or the province for these negotiations to go to arbitration.

Given this government's commitment, as clearly stated in the Labour Relations Act amendments, to encouraging the process of collective bargaining, I ask the Premier if he can explain his unprecedented personal intervention in the ongoing collective bargaining process between the OHA and CUPE.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'd be happy to do so. First of all, it's not at all unprecedented. In fact, it's my understanding that the person who was in the room with me serving as the president of the Ontario Hospital Association had himself, as the Minister of Health in a previous government, with the Premier at that time had a meeting with the Ontario Hospital Association to discuss the breakdown of bargaining and the prospects of an illegal strike in the hospital sector in 1981.

The purpose of my intervention was precisely, and has been consistently, to encourage collective bargaining. That has been the whole nature of the efforts by the government, by the Minister of Health, by all of us involved in this process. I take some pride in that.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier gives as precedent a situation which seems to me to be not at all comparable. It's my understanding that there had not been a breakdown in the collective bargaining process, that the collective process in this situation had been lengthy but that the parties had agreed that having reached an impasse this collective bargaining process should now go legitimately to the arbitration process.

To the best of my knowledge or the memory of the people on this side of the House, no government has interfered in the hospitals' collective bargaining process in this way before. If we look back even at last year's nurses' settlement, it was reached without government intervention, at least so the government claimed. Yet ironically, this is the Premier who in response to my question has again talked about enhancing the collective bargaining process.

There is more. It's our understanding that at that meeting on May 26 the Premier also told the Ontario Hospital Association that he wanted the hospitals and CUPE to reach a settlement based on the government's agreement with OPSEU, which he holds up as a model of restraint. He is therefore not only telling the parties what to do, he is telling them specifically what their settlement should be.

If the Premier is going to dictate the terms of the collective agreement, why doesn't he simply impose the agreement on the parties? He has clearly already violated the integrity of the collective bargaining process.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm afraid the information the honourable member has is quite wrong. I did not suggest any particular settlement to the Ontario Hospital Association, any more than I would suggest any proposed settlement to any of the parties. I simply pointed out to the Ontario Hospital Association privately what I said publicly in my statement of January 21—that is, that the government is taking action with respect to its own employees and that we are also taking action with respect to transfer payments. Those transfer payments are there and are there as a matter of record; they are not a floor, but are an essential part of the government's overall fiscal strategy and framework.

In that context all I did, and continue to do, was to encourage the parties to bargain and indicate that our good offices were available. I indicated as well that with respect to the question of retraining and of looking at the hospital

sector training and adjustment fund the government saw a real need for there to be more information shared with the parties with respect to the purposes and the framework of that fund in order to allow effective collective bargaining to take place. That was what I did. To be perfectly direct with the honourable member, I think to do otherwise would not have been doing my job.

1430

Mrs McLeod: If the Premier says that he has not proposed a settlement, that he has only encouraged continued bargaining, he may wish to set the public record straight. The public record is all that we on this side of the House have to go by since we are not privy to the private meetings. The public record of that particular meeting is that the Premier stressed the government believes it would be in the best interests of both CUPE and hospitals to negotiate a settlement comparable to the OPS settlement rather than proceed to arbitration. That sounds like more than encouragement, and in fact it is not the first instance of interference by this government in the collective bargaining process.

On April 22 the Minister of Education stated in this House that he would use transition funds to support school boards that arrived at something called balanced contracts with their teachers in return for negotiated benefits. At least the Premier is much clearer and much more blatant in imposing his settlements than the Minister of Education, who has simply created confusion with his proposals. I would just ask why this government seems to want to support the collective bargaining process only when it likes the outcome.

Hon Mr Rae: No, it's because we've expressed the concern. I'll go on; I'll tell you what else I did with respect to the situation, because I think it's important to know. We've found, on the basis of the professional advice we received from our mediators who are involved at the scene, including the deputy minister, Mr Pathe, a feeling that was clearly expressed that there was not enough real bargaining going on in this sector, that in fact there were too many settlements in which the parties were simply taking the way out of saying, "Let's just refer this to arbitration," instead of trying to encourage real collective bargaining.

All we have tried to do in this sector, as in others, is encourage genuine collective bargaining with all of the parties being fully aware of all the facts and parameters. One of the facts that has to be put to the parties is that the 1%, 2% guideline with respect to what we are going to be putting forward this year and next year as a transfer to the hospital sector is a very real number. It's on that basis that we wanted to encourage collective bargaining, and we continue to want to encourage collective bargaining, to take place.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): First of all, I'd like to welcome the Premier back to the House from his negotiations.

I would like to direct to the Premier a question in his capacity as leader of the government of Ontario, but also

make a personal request to him that the Premier himself respond to my question and that he not punt it off on someone else.

Premier, while you have been dealing with matters of national and international focus outside of this elected body your House leader introduced without consultation with the opposition or your full caucus, without an attempt to reach consensus, a procedural motion which would strip the opposition and your own backbench members of many of their opportunities to play a meaningful role in the democratic process. Why would a person with your record of fighting for the underdog, with your reputation as a defender of the rights of the opposition, with your respect for the parliamentary process, permit such a heavy-handed, autocratic, muzzling motion to be placed before this House in the name of the government you head?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, I refer this to the government House leader.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): I indicated to the members of the Legislature on several occasions last week that the package of rule changes the government is proposing is very much in line with the rules that are followed in other legislatures in Canada and the federal House of Commons as well.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Etobicoke West, come to order.

Hon Mr Cooke: The opposition House leaders last Thursday indicated that we were going to meet this afternoon to look at the package of rule changes the government is proposing and any proposals the opposition parties might have. We're going to sit down and talk about those matters this afternoon.

Mr Bradley: I ask the supplementary question of the Premier on behalf of not only the opposition but of all elected members of the Legislative Assembly. We have seen a move in many jurisdictions towards the consolidation of political power in the hands of non-elected people: the civil service, the political staff of government, particularly the Premier's office and the Prime Minister's Office. This has been imposed at the expense of members democratically elected by voters in constituencies across the province.

As an individual who has believed all of his life in democracy, who has fought all of his political life for the right of the opposition to be heard and the government to be held accountable in an open, effective manner, how can the Premier initiate a motion which will severely restrict the ability of the opposition to do its job by, for instance, substantially reducing the time available for members to address the House by chopping three weeks more from the sitting of the assembly and by removing discretionary powers from the elected Speaker, whose role it is to protect the rights of the opposition and all members of this assembly?

Hon Mr Cooke: Every example the member just gave in the rule package the government is proposing is a rule that is in fact in place in other legislatures in Canada and in

the federal House. I don't see how it's democratic when you have the unrestricted ability for people to speak for hours and hours, which usually means that the backbenchers in my party don't get an opportunity to participate in the debate—that's what happens under the current rules—or just two or three members of the opposition parties get to speak. There is not ample opportunity for members to participate, and the rule changes we're proposing will guarantee that participation from all members of the House.

Mr Bradley: I can't believe that the Premier of this province would necessarily align himself with the Prime Minister of Canada who resides in that office at the present time on matters related to parliamentary democracy. The Premier and I have both served in this House, the Premier for some 10 years and myself for some 15 years, and I've admired the role the Premier played in opposition—we were both in opposition at one time—even when I was in government, watching the Premier play the role of defending the opposition. But if the Premier is determined to shove his new parliamentary rules down the throats of the opposition and his own backbench members, many of whom have been striving to enhance the role of all elected members of the House, and if he's determined to further concentrate power in his own office, what is the use of any of us remaining as members of provincial Parliament and why would anyone wishing to serve his or her community bother to run for this elected office?

Hon Mr Cooke: I always thought the premise of this place was that the government did get the opportunity to propose and the opposition got the opportunity to oppose, which is exactly what the opposition parties are doing. It wouldn't have mattered what rule change package we came forward with; they would've opposed it. That's their role. That was our role when we were in opposition as well. That is the job of Parliament.

But the government should also have the opportunity to vote on things in the House. The fact of the matter is that the opposition has—and I can give you the examples. Last fall for six weeks we had no opportunity to vote on any legislation. We've had tax bills that have taken over a year to get to a vote in this House. The member who has asked the question has been one of the people who has participated in those kinds of games. The public says to me that it doesn't want to see that any more; it wants to see this Parliament produce. The only way that can happen is with a change in the way this Parliament operates.

1440

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): My question is to the Minister of Transportation. I've received documentation from your ministry that confirms you have awarded a contract to FP Labour Consultant Services and its president, Mr Wally Majesky. This contract is worth \$160,000 and is for a human resources study. Can you confirm (1) that this study was proposed by Mr Majesky and not solicited, and (2) that this contract was awarded without tendering?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I appreciate the question from the member. We have a meticulous contract procedure at the Ministry of Transportation. Some of them are massive. They're all consequential, but some are of lesser importance. Soliciting in terms of due process does not apply here.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): What?

Hon Mr Pouliot: It does not apply here. It's a very important question and we're very ethical in terms of Transportation. I don't know about this contract—

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): Did you tender or didn't you, Gilles? Just answer the question and sit down.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Why don't you just keep quiet—with the highest of respect, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Pouliot: What I will do, Mr Speaker—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. It would be most helpful if the minister could address his remarks to the Chair. Of course, that would also be aided if there were no interventions.

Hon Mr Pouliot: I apologize. Perhaps I was a little too spontaneous in responding to a response contravening article 20(b) of the standing orders—an interruption, Mr Speaker.

I will look into it, because this kind of question is insightful. You must never be too vigilant, Mr Speaker. My responsibility as the Minister of Transportation, as a member of the executive council, is to make sure that we are nothing short of meticulous in the awarding of people's money. We're looking at full value for money. I'll come back to the member in short order.

Mr Turnbull: Minister, I'll never accuse you of being too vigilant. This is just something Wally Majesky dreamed up. In fact, the Amalgamated Transit Union, whom Mr Majesky represents, says, "Without question, this project represents an important first step in developing a broader range of trade union skills that are necessary to our ATU leadership."

In other words, this contract was awarded to trade union bosses. Minister, do you really think we should be spending \$160,000 of taxpayers' money to fund a prep school for up and coming transit union bosses?

Hon Mr Pouliot: I have made the commitment that I will look into it. I will do so in short order and I will be honoured to come back to the member.

Mr Turnbull: Minister, that really isn't acceptable. This proposal was unsolicited, untendered and most of all unnecessary. Your ministry funded an earlier study by the Canadian Urban Transit Association. In the words of your assistant deputy minister, the previous study would be very relevant to and may duplicate much of the research proposed by Mr Majesky. In other words, you didn't need the study, but a labour crony needed a few bucks. Minister, the time when your ministry is slashing the capital budget

spending, how can you justify spending tax dollars to line the pockets of your backroom buddies?

Hon Mr Pouliot: Those are mere allegations. I'm not going to fabricate or make up an answer. I will look into it and I will come back to the member.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): My question is for the Minister of Health. She will be aware that last week a 16-year-old girl in the Kingston area was abducted, apparently sexually assaulted and held captive by a forensic patient of the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. Thanks to the joint efforts of the Kingston and Ontario Provincial Police, the man was arrested, still holding the young girl captive, 23 hours after the reporting of the abduction and almost 24 miles from its site. Could the minister tell the House today and the people of Kingston how this could have occurred and how her ministry is reacting to it?

Hon Frances Lankin (Minister of Health): As the member well knows, I can make comments about the general status of Lieutenant Governor's warrant patients at psychiatric hospitals and procedures. While this is before the courts, he knows I cannot comment on specifics of the individual case.

Let me say to the member that I take seriously the kinds of concerns the community has in response to this kind of very serious incident. He should know that an internal hospital investigation has been put in place. It involves both management and treatment teams internal to the hospital as well as an external expert. We are looking at steps to ensure whether the procedures taken with respect to privileges in this particular case were appropriate and to review the status of privileges for all forensic patients.

Additionally, I note that the member made mention in his statement at the beginning of question period today of the kinds of community concerns there were and the concerns of the mayor and the city council. The director of the mental health facilities division will be meeting directly with city council, and the hospital, the union and the community advisory board have been undertaking meetings to set up community consultation to try and ensure that there is an open process of dialogue with the community to address these concerns.

Mr Runciman: It is another confirmation that everyone has rights in this province except the victims.

I want to talk about last year. I raised an issue three months after a murder on the grounds of the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. A patient was murdered. Two men were charged. One of them, who had been responsible for the murder of three children in Toronto a number of years ago, was on pass. His approved community escort—approved by your officials—was a former forensic patient, a cop killer. This was the man your officials approved to escort this gentleman out into the community. In my view, it was a significant and contributing factor to that murder taking place.

Minister, we are now talking about a 16-year-old victim. Apparently—and this comes from members of the family—the victim was assaulted in the community, taken

back on to the grounds of the psychiatric hospital and assaulted on the grounds of the hospital. Minister, I think you owe it to the victim, her family and the residents of Kingston to be much more forthcoming than you are today and not to hide behind patient rights and court proceedings, as you have done in the past, and take absolutely no action.

Hon Ms Lankin: Mr Speaker, I didn't hear a question directed. I think there was a general statement made. I assure the member that I do take these sorts of situations very seriously. I remind him that the Criminal Code Review Board, which operates under federal jurisdiction, sets the level of privileges for Lieutenant Governor's warrant patients. It is important for him to remember that. The administration of those privileges is done at a provincial level and this government takes seriously, as did the previous government, the concerns and considerations around how those privileges are exercised.

I've indicated to him that with respect to the exercising of those privileges in this particular case, and for all forensic patients at this particular hospital, there is a review going on right now. I think that from that review we will find whether any further steps need to be taken.

There is in fact the reality that the level of privilege has been set by the Criminal Code Review Board, and in Ontario, in our psychiatric hospitals, we are responsible to that level of privilege set by that procedure under federal legislation.

Mr Runciman: This minister is doing what her predecessor, the member for Oriole, did. In fact we have different words. This minister says she is going to "take it seriously." The former minister said, "I'm concerned." I will give the member for Oriole credit, though: When I had leaked documents and provided them to her, she took action and tried to remedy the situation. We're getting nothing from you. You're a puppet of the bureaucracy, apparently, in this situation.

I want to put on the record another concern in the community. This apparently comes from very valid sources. Not only was this young child, this 16-year-old child assaulted on the grounds of the hospital; the patient from the hospital tied this young lady to his wrist, put a coat over the wrist, went back on to the hospital grounds and received an extended pass with this victim tied to his wrist.

We're talking about security provisions at the psychiatric hospital which this minister is responsible for. She tries to hide behind the review board. I talked about approving a former cop killer as a community escort. That is something she could do something about. She has known that for a year and has done absolutely nothing. I think it's time she got off her tail, started looking at what is happening within the forensic system, took action and put public safety above patient rights.

Hon Ms Lankin: Again I didn't detect a question, but let me say to the member opposite that although I understand he sees himself as a self-styled crusader on these issues and likes to get very angry and likes to yell and use

provocative words, we are dealing with a situation in which there—

Mr Runciman: You don't care about the community. You don't care about the victim. You are always holier than thou. Why don't you address the victim? Holier than thou. Baloney, pure baloney.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Hon Ms Lankin: I don't think I have anything further to add to the comments I've made already with respect to this issue.

1450

TAXATION

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): My question is to the Premier and it has to do with incorrect information he provided to the House last week. I'd like to give the Premier an opportunity to correct the record and let the people of Ontario know what's really happening.

As the Premier I hope now knows, as of July 1, in two weeks, the Ontario income tax rate will be going up for all the working people in this province by more than 5%. In answer to a question I asked last week in the House, Premier, your answer was, "for lower- and middle-income taxpayers—that is to say, individuals who are earning less than \$53,000—there will be no increase in the combined federal-Ontario income tax as a result of the federal and Ontario 1992 budgets."

That information is incorrect; it's wrong. Will the Premier now admit he was wrong and would he confirm that people earning as little as \$30,000 or \$20,000, indeed \$10,000 a year will have their Ontario income tax rate increased by more than 5% effective July 1?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I certainly wouldn't want to give any information to the House or give any impression to the House that was out of keeping with the facts. I can only say to the member that I will certainly take his question as notice. I'll get back to him with respect to the answer. If he feels the answer I gave was incorrect, then I'll discuss it with the Treasurer as soon as possible. I believe the tax policies which our government has introduced are tax policies that are fair. I believe the net impact those increases will have, when a number of other things are taken into account, will be no net increase for 1993. If I've given any information to the member that leaves a false impression, obviously I will correct that, and I'll ask my people to correct it as soon as possible.

Mr Phillips: The Premier ran on a platform, and I can recall him very clearly going across the province and saying, that he was going to eliminate Ontario income tax for people living at or below the poverty line. It's a very important question for this reason: The Premier is clearly confused. The facts are that as of July 1, for people earning as little as \$10,000 a year, their income tax rate is going up 5%. Those are the facts. It's obvious the Premier has made his decisions on the assumption that people earning less than \$53,000 will pay no more income tax, combined, this year. That's not right; that's wrong.

Premier, my question to you is this: If the facts are as I believe them to be, will you undertake now to change your budget to reflect what you believe the budget to be? Will you undertake now to say, "Listen, I'm committing to the people of this province that if you're earning less than \$53,000, you will pay no increased income taxes in 1992," because that's your understanding of the budget? If that's your understanding, will you commit to ensure and carry that out?

Hon Mr Rae: The honourable member, for example, didn't mention the fact that senior citizens who are on a low income will be receiving an increase in the amount of their tax credit, which also relates to the tax system. I'm sure he would want to share that fact with the members of the House. He would also want to share with members of the House the fact that the overall impact of what the Treasurer has done in the last two years has been to remove tens of thousands of families from the income tax rolls altogether. But I will say to the honourable member that obviously he's looking for some information, and I'll be happy to share that information with him.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): My question is to the Minister of Government Services, surrounding the same issue I asked you questions about last Thursday, Mr Minister.

I've spoken with a Mr Ron Gotts in your office, executive director of the real estate service division, Ministry of Government Services. This gentleman has said to me that concerning the issue surrounding the tendered contract to the company that had previously done work for you and is now working for the ministry, which didn't carry any worker's compensation or had run out and which didn't have any liability insurance or had run out, your ministry had paid some \$13,000 in bills at Christmastime that it had absolutely no responsibility to pay: "Because it was Christmas" was their explanation.

Further to that, my office asked Mr Ron Gotts if in fact an investigation was being done into this entire kerfuffle. His response, Mr Minister, was that you had done an investigation, a full inquiry. My office asked, "Well, when will this information be made public?" and Mr Gotts said, "That's already been done." The question was put, "Well, if it's been done, when did it happen?" Their answer was, "It happened last week when the minister responded to your question."

I reviewed Hansard and the minister's response was, "My staff has thoroughly examined the contract and have assured me that it was publicly tendered and awarded in accordance with the ministry's procedures." Some investigation.

My question to the minister is, when will you make this investigation public? When can we look through these files? I have a number of bits of information here that certainly cause concern for me, and I'm certain for the people in the province. When can we air this out? How come this happened? How come they got the job? How come they were pulled off? How come we paid \$13,000 we had no responsibility to pay? How did they get on the

job site without any workers' compensation liability insurance etc?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question?

Mr Stockwell: Can we expect the public inquiry information to be made public very shortly?

Hon Fred Wilson (Minister of Government Services): I think the member and I have danced to this tune before. Let me just give him some of the new words. I mentioned last week that I had no connection whatsoever before, during or after with the letting of that tender. I also said that my staff had also done all their work in accordance with procedure. I reiterate that today. I had nothing whatsoever to do with the tendering process.

Upon investigation and subsequent inquiry, I have found that my staff worked to the letter in accordance with procedure. As far as the investigation is concerned, I am quite satisfied that there was no wrongdoing whatever among my staff, and of course not with myself, but—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Wilson: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Stockwell: I'm happy the minister is quite satisfied. The difficulty is, Mr Minister, that I'm not satisfied, nor I think would a number of other people be if they review the documents.

The suggestion has been made that this was in accordance with government rules and regulations. I put to the minister it is not. You're not allowed to take a tender in this province without supplying your WCB number, certificate etc. You need liability insurance and you need to post a 10% bid bond. You need to do a lot of things that didn't happen on this tender.

Now, the question to the minister is: These things didn't take place. Sir, this is not in accordance with your rules, admitted by your own staff. You, sir, have admitted yourself that "somebody played Santa Claus here and I need to get to the bottom of it." When will you make this information public so we can decide whether or not it was acceptable? Quite frankly, sir, I don't think you're capable of doing that on your own.

Hon Mr Wilson: Let me put it this way to the member: If you would like very much to have a personal, private briefing with my staff on the subject, where everything can be laid before you, I will arrange that, after which—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon Mr Wilson: You heard my offer, sir—after which, I will say to you now, we will have another discussion on this subject and I'm sure you will agree with the facts laid before you. In any case, put up or shut up.

Interjections.

The Speaker: New question. The member for Cochrane South.

M. Gilles Bisson (Cochrane-Sud) : Ma question est pour le ministre des Collèges et Universités. Est-ce qu'on

peut avoir un peu de silence dans la Chambre, s'il vous plaît ?

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. It would certainly be helpful if all members in the House would attempt to use temperate language both when asking questions and when responding. The member for Cochrane South has the floor.

1500

COLLÈGES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

M. Gilles Bisson (Cochrane-Sud) : Cette question-ci fait affaire avec les collèges, et avant de commencer la question — ça fait assez longtemps qu'on essaie de faire avancer le dossier et que nous attendons nos collègues. Je souhaite que les interventions ne vont pas prendre de délai sur ma question autant qu'on voit.

La question est pour le ministre des Collèges et Universités. On sait que dernièrement il y a eu la réunion annuelle de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario à Ottawa. Je n'ai pas eu la chance d'assister à cette conférence-là, mais j'ai rencontré beaucoup de personnes dans ma communauté qui sont beaucoup intéressées concernant la question de la création des collèges. Pouvez-vous donner un compte rendu : à quel point sommes-nous rendus concernant ce qui s'est passé avec le congrès de l'ACFO ?

L'hon Richard Allen (ministre des Collèges et Universités) : Comme le député de Cochrane-Sud l'a mentionné, j'ai bien signalé cette fin de semaine à l'assemblée annuelle de l'ACFO que le Conseil des ministres de l'Ontario a pris une décision très importante touchant la proposition pour élargir le réseau des collèges francophones en Ontario.

J'ai également profité de cette occasion pour souligner que ce projet pourra voir le jour seulement si le Conseil des ministres fédéral donne son appui pour le partage des coûts de ce projet-là.

M. Bisson : Pour la deuxième partie de la question : je sais que je pousse un peu, mais jusqu'à quel point peut-on s'attendre à ce qu'on ait une annonce faisant affaire avec ce dossier très important, que je suis sûr que tous les députés de l'Assemblée sont intéressés à connaître.

L'hon M. Allen : Comme je l'ai déjà signalé, nous serons en mesure de faire l'annonce formelle de l'accord entre les deux gouvernements, le provincial et le fédéral, sur ce dossier aussitôt que possible, aussitôt que le Cabinet fédéral aura pris sa décision.

Cependant, je peux vous dire que le secrétaire d'État, M. de Cotret, s'est montré très sensible à ce dossier. Il travaille très fort et sans relâche sur ce dossier en ce moment pour avoir l'appui de son Cabinet fédéral. Aussitôt que possible, quand nous aurons une décision fédérale il sera possible d'avoir une annonce officielle.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): My question is to the Solicitor General. Mr Solicitor General, you'd agree that nothing in the Stephen Lewis report was in any way new. In 1989, the independent Race Relations

and Policing Task Force, headed by Clare Lewis, submitted to the then Solicitor General a report containing 57 specific recommendations on improving the relationship between minority communities and the police services. Of the 57 recommendations, 56 were implemented by the government of the day, the Liberal government, including the establishment of a special investigative unit, improved race relations training for police services and legislated mandatory employment equity in police services.

Stephen Lewis, in his recent report on race relations, made a number of specific recommendations concerning policing and race relations. Will the Solicitor General today make a commitment to ensure that all of these recommendations are fully implemented?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I agree with the member opposite that the report has been a very valuable report and is one that requires immediate attention. I believe the Premier will be making certain comments with respect to that report tomorrow, and I as well intend to make a statement to the House with respect to some of the provisions of the report the member opposite referred to, more specifically in terms of code of conduct and the use of force, which were items that will be delineated by regulation under the Police Services Act and which I believe as well flowed from the recommendations of the original Lewis task force.

Mr Curling: It's unfortunate that it took Stephen Lewis to tell you the things that should be done. You say you were waiting on Stephen Lewis and that he made some rather important recommendations. These recommendations were made a long time ago. I'm asking specifically, as 56 of those 57 were implemented, will you do that?

Two years ago the Police Services Act was passed in this Legislature. Two years later we are still waiting for the Solicitor General to introduce regulations to this act on such important matters as the use of force by the police and police training. I recall that your previous Solicitor General had promised to do so.

Last year the ability of the special investigations unit to conduct independent investigation was severely compromised as a result of a private agreement between the police chiefs and the SIU, which you all denied when I raised that point last year. One year later the public is still waiting for this protocol to be revoked and replaced by new operating procedures which will allow the unit to fulfil its mandate.

What assurance can you, Mr Solicitor General, then give us that these issues will be acted upon immediately? Given this relative inaction on these matters to date, can you tell us why the public should now believe you?

Hon Mr Pilkey: The Police Services Act was changed some time ago, I believe when the members opposite were in power. However, the regulations that were to be delineated never happened under that government. We certainly are trying to do just that, particularly the ones the member mentioned in terms of use of force and code of conduct which have been under active consideration for many months in the ministry and will be brought forward tomorrow.

Secondarily, the member mentioned the SIU and he wondered if I could bring some immediate report with respect to the protocol he mentioned. I can do better than bring him an immediate response and action to that. I can advise him that the work's already done. The new protocol has been written, stakeholders have been brought in, it's been reviewed with them, it has been given to police forces. It is in fact the order of the day and in use right today, and has been. The member's information, I'm sorry, is badly lacking and outdated.

1510

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Last Thursday Jim Thomas, the Deputy Minister of Labour, hosted a meeting with 60 American senior business leaders in Detroit. Automobile manufacturers were strongly represented at this meeting. That same day, in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition, you stated that you did not believe the changes outlined in Bill 40 would have a negative impact on jobs and investment in Ontario. If that is the official position of the NDP government, why was the Deputy Minister of Labour in Detroit?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): I think the answer to that is fairly obvious. We have been in the process of consulting, not only through the process of our paper but also since, with all the various groups that might be interested in the new legislation in Ontario and some of the outside business people.

Mrs Witmer: If your government is so sure that Bill 40 is not going to have a negative impact on jobs and investment, is not going to affect just-in-time delivery in the automotive sector and is not going to affect the viability of Canadian branch plants, I am sure you would not have rushed the deputy minister down to the United States to reassure American investors. I have been told that despite the deputy minister's best efforts the reaction from the American executives was overwhelmingly negative.

Minister, is it not time to admit that you have absolutely no idea what the true economic impact of your labour law changes will be? Is it not time to set up a tripartite committee to examine the economic impact of Bill 40? Don't tell me about the recently announced labour-management committee, because it does not have a mandate to examine Bill 40.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: It seems to me to be fairly obvious that we're likely to have more effect, in terms of investment in the province, by some of the scare tactics coming from across the way. If we have not made a clear decision that one of the things we have to do in this province is to involve workers themselves in the decisions that are made, we're certainly not going to compete in today's world markets.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): My question is for the Solicitor General concerning Sunday openings. I've had a lot of calls in my office from retailers in malls and franchise stores asking whether mall management or franchise

owners can force them to open on a Sunday if they wish to remain closed. Mr Minister, can you at least shed some light on this problem?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I think we had indicated a brief time ago in discussion with respect to this matter that the government does, through its legislation, provide protection for retailers and those who have franchise agreements. The government has every intention to protect those people to the extent that it can do so by legislation. I hope your constituents who have offered these concerns to you will be satisfied by the protection this bill and these amendments will bring.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a question to the Minister of Labour. It's becoming increasingly clear that the amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act as introduced by the Minister of Labour are not reflected in the minister's statement to this Legislature and the press releases on this same subject matter.

The Minister of Labour indicated in his statement that agriculture was not included. In fact, his own press release on the OLRA changes stated, "No further changes will be made to the agricultural exclusion until the government has had an opportunity to study the agricultural task force report to be released later this month." But in the minister's own legislation as introduced on that same day, subsection 4(2) states that the act does apply to a person employed in such class of agricultural or horticultural operations as may be prescribed by regulation. So not only do agricultural workers appear to be included under the OLRA changes, but the rules for farm employees can be changed by regulation outside the scrutiny of the House.

Can the minister tell the House why agricultural workers are included in the changes to the OLRA even though the minister has said they were not? Why did you, Mr Minister, not wait for the results of your own task force before deciding on a course of action?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): As I've said, we haven't decided on a course of action. The placeholders are there so that when we get the report, which should be down in a matter of days now, we can make a move if we so decide.

Mr Offer: I will only ask the minister if he might take some time to read his own legislation, which states, notwithstanding what you just said now, that the act does apply to members of the agricultural and horticultural operations, and you have done so by regulation.

I ask you to clearly indicate why you have made this type of statement. In other words, because you have done it by regulation, members will not get the chance to debate the inclusion of agricultural workers in these changes. The minister—you—can decide how to treat this industry without justifying these moves to the House. Can the minister explain to the House why you've decided to amend the agricultural worker provisions by regulation and not by legislation? Why did you decide to take away from the Legislature the right to examine labour changes in the farm sector? Mr Minister, by your own amendments you have already included agricultural workers.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: No. What we really wanted was an intensive consultation, which we've been carrying out with the agricultural community.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a question for the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area and also the Minister of the Environment.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): And the minister of garbage.

Mr Cousens: And the minister of garbage. It can only be called a green betrayal. First you introduced Bill 143 without serious public consultation. Then you tried to ram it through the Legislature. Then you ignore worthwhile amendments put forth in public hearings. Finally you refused to release the landfill site list until Bill 143 was passed. As a result, thousands of people are now facing the very real possibility of having a 40-million-tonne landfill site in their community.

Property values throughout the greater Toronto area are dropping. New additions to people's homes, swimming pools and construction that they would put into their homes in those communities are being put on hold. New construction will slow down. You have dropped a garbage bomb. Who would have thought that a government elected on the premise of improving consultation between the people and the government and one that would uphold the environment as sacred could betray its people so callously? Now the people in those towns and villages near the 57 possible sites would like to know what they can do to save their communities from having a landfill site in them.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I'd be glad to respond to that because I certainly can understand the concern those communities and those people feel when they are identified as being on a list of candidate sites by the Interim Waste Authority. I'm glad to be able to say to the member that they will have every opportunity to participate. That's precisely why the Interim Waste Authority was created: to have a fair and open process. Community information centres are open. Opportunities for participation, review of the technical documents for evaluation and comment on the criteria that the Interim Waste Authority will use to move from the long list to the short list to the preferred site are and must be open, participative and consultative. People have to participate to make sure it is a fair and open process. I know they will and I know they will be welcomed and encouraged to do so.

Mr Cousens: They'll participate all right and they're going to participate as much as they can. Unfortunately the Interim Waste Authority offices are not necessarily where the people are and they're not necessarily open when people want to go to them. The one in Stouffville is closed till Thursday, I hear, and then when you invite the Interim Waste Authority to come to a public meeting it won't even come.

Aside from that, the question I really want to ask has to do with the fact that you've dropped an environmental bomb in every community across the greater Toronto area

and you are also the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. You have a responsibility for the total growth and needs of that community. Our communities are now saying, "Something's gone wrong." It's so serious that they just don't know what to do about it, and your answer is "public participation."

I want to ask you, Madam Minister, why, when you set up the regional consultation network, you didn't even have representatives in it for York region from the communities involved. You've got someone from Etobicoke, your area, but there isn't someone from Unionville, Sharon or Schomberg when you've got sites in Durham—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his question, please.

Mr Cousens: —and you've got people left out from Whitevale. The people in the greater Toronto area would like to know how you and the Interim Waste Authority came about deciding who would sit on the regional consultation networks.

Hon Mrs Grier: I can't answer that question. It was decided by the Interim Waste Authority and I know that people who wish to participate have merely to so indicate to the Interim Waste Authority and deal with it with respect to that issue.

1520

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is to the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. Last week I held a press conference and meetings in my riding about the location of seven landfill sites around the town of Whitevale. As I pointed out last week, the difference was that instead of being arbitrary and underhanded in doing it behind closed doors, as the Liberals did, this one is being done through a process. One of the questions that did come up in these meetings was about Kirkland Lake. My constituents would like to know why Kirkland Lake isn't an option for Durham.

Hon Mrs Grier: Let me say that I know how difficult it is for the constituents of the honourable member and that I really appreciate the very strong statement this member made to his community last week, encouraging it to participate in the process that's been set up by the Interim Waste Authority.

What I want to say to him in response to his question, "Why not Kirkland Lake?" is that there is a basic flaw in the thinking of those who say it is easy to go to Boston township near Kirkland Lake and have an environmental assessment of going to Kirkland Lake.

The two things don't jibe. The environmental assessment process doesn't start with a preferred site; it works towards finding a preferred site, which is exactly what the Interim Waste Authority is doing within the greater Toronto area. If you were to examine sites all across the province it would not be simply Kirkland Lake; it would be Plympton, Marmora, Nottawasaga and all the others that were previously on the list.

Second, environmentally, shipping waste all across this province does not lead us towards a conserver society and does not encourage the three Rs.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Markham is asked to come to order.

Mr Wiseman: My supplementary has to do with the whole question of transportation of waste by rail. Some of my residents, in Pickering in particular, see this as a possible solution that could help them and the railway industry.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I will ask the member for Markham once again if he will come to order.

Mr Wiseman: I think my constituents have every right to hear a question in this House that they put to me, whether or not I know the answer, and have every right to have—

The Speaker: Would the member place his question, please.

Mr Wiseman: —the ministers of this government be responsive to what their questions are without having to be interfered with—

The Speaker: Would the member place his question.

Mr Wiseman: —or lectured to by the hypocrisy of the Tory Party, especially that member.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. I asked the member twice if he would place his supplementary. If you have a supplementary, please place it quickly.

Mr Wiseman: I will do that. Some of my residents in my community see the possibility of rail haul as a solution to the problem. They would like a detailed explanation or any kind of explanation they can receive to explain what the rationale is for not using rail haul. Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your kind and courteous attention.

Hon Mrs Grier: I know the question of rail haul of waste around the province was raised again last week at a press conference that was sponsored by the development company that has an interest in ensuring that the waste in the greater Toronto area goes to northern Ontario.

Rail haul is a very efficient way to travel, but the problem is that hauling waste around the province is not a very efficient way of dealing with waste. What we have to do to deal with waste is get serious about reducing, reusing and recycling, and that won't happen as long as we create ever bigger and bigger holes farther and farther away from where the waste is generated.

In response to that press conference, I'd like to quote to the member a release that was issued by a group in Kirkland Lake, which said, "Long-distance rail haul of garbage has greatly to do with billions of dollars in profits and very little to do with the problem of overproduction of garbage." They went on to say, "It is in the interests of a long-distance rail haul system that society produce more waste in order to generate more profits for hauling that waste."

That's precisely the kind of approach this government has not supported and it's precisely the reason we have not seen rail haul of waste as an adequate way to deal with the crisis within the GTA.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): My question is to the Solicitor General. Last month I asked the Solicitor General if he would establish a public inquiry into the events of the former Grandview Training School For Girls. In his response to me the minister said that the establishment of an inquiry was, in his words, "somewhat premature." I would like to ask the minister if there perhaps is another reason for his delay.

As Solicitor General the minister is responsible for the police and for their investigations into this complex matter. He is also responsible for the office of the coroner and for the Ministry of Correctional Services, both of which are being investigated. Many members of this Legislature and the public are asking how it is possible for this minister to be impartial when he, as Solicitor General, is the member of the executive council responsible for at least two other branches of the government being investigated: corrections and the office of the coroner.

Mr Minister, you are responsible for both investigators and those being investigated. You appear to be in a serious conflict of interest. Mr Minister, do you not believe that under these very delicate circumstances of an appearance of a conflict of interest the only fair and impartial resolution to this matter is to call for an independent provincial public inquiry?

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services): In the words of the member's own question, it is indeed a complex issue; with that I agree. I believe the Ministry of Correctional Services has cooperated fully, notwithstanding that all the files have long since left that ministry. There is not any particular active investigation or participation there and those files have gone to the public archivist. One of my colleagues, the Honourable Karen Haslam, addressed that question, I believe, in the House a week or two ago.

In terms of the Solicitor General aspect of it, the investigation continues through the regional police in that particular area. I am hopeful and encouraged that all of the information will come out when the investigations are completed and that everyone will be well satisfied with the conduct of the investigation. I don't particularly see that there's any conflict beyond an appearance of two ministries I represent, when one looks at the factual participation of those respective ministries.

USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It's really a point of personal privilege. During the weeks following Christmas and the passing of second reading of Bill 143 a committee was struck to review all aspects of that bill, and for four weeks we had public hearings. During that period of time we heard from people who favour and oppose—more people were opposed—Bill 143. One of the members on that committee was the member for Durham West, Mr Jim Wiseman, who voted with the NDP bloc on all issues in support of abolishing consideration of the rail haul option, which is the question he asked today, and he voted against every amendment put forward by ourselves.

Now what we're seeing in the Legislature is the same member who was on that committee who voted with the government on the government side coming along and asking questions that were all answered at that time in committee. Why is it that he has to waste the time of this member of the House when he had a chance to ask those questions in committee for four weeks and he asks the question today?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Markham: He would know that every member of the House, whether that member serves on a committee or not, unless the person is a member of the executive council, has the opportunity, when recognized by the Speaker, to place a question during question period. The placing of questions has nothing to do with the member's participation in committees of the House.

1530

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I have stood on this item before and asked for your intervention. Today I'm pleased to say that you did allow an extension of question period because of certain things happening. But I note that on two occasions ministers of the crown, in responding to members of the opposition, and sometimes to interjections—and I understand interjections are out of order—have used language that in my own view offends standing order 16, which talks about the place being brought to grave disorder.

I believe that in those two cases we consumed almost six minutes of question time. In fact, it is my opinion that with the outburst of the member for Durham West it probably contributed to somewhere close to seven or eight minutes' worth of question period time.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I'm sorry; I can't be heard over the yelling. It seems to me that the language which has been chosen by the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Government Services, together with the member for Durham West, has been designed to bring in some extra debate from the opposition benches, in fact using up the time and offending against the placing of questions.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Could the member for Bruce conclude his point of order.

Mr Elston: I will conclude very quickly, Mr Speaker. It seems to me that this sort of strategy, placed to eliminate the time to have the questions has been effective. It has brought us from usually having six questions, two leader's questions and four questions here from the backbench, if I can describe it as that, of the Liberal Party to a point where we very seldom now get the third question asked. It has been consuming time and it has also been moving the question period to such an extent that when the Premier leaves this place, which he does regularly now at 3 o'clock, we are unable to place our questions to him, he not wanting to answer. It's up to him, but at least he's here when we place some of the early questions.

If it is the design, and it looks that way to me, of the government to prevent us from asking our questions in a timely fashion, or even indeed asking those questions at all, I think you ought to intervene and protect us against those types of shenanigans from the government.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, a couple of observations: First of all, with respect to the language that was heard in this chamber today, I must report sadly that provocative language came from both sides of the House.

Mrs Elinor Caplan (Oriole): Not from this side.

The Speaker: I am not referring to any specific member, but clearly provocative language was heard on both sides of the chamber.

There's no question that intemperate and provocative language causes disruption to the point where we must halt the proceedings, and that indeed, as the member has pointed out, takes away time that otherwise could be used by members for asking questions.

I will add that he will know that I watch the clock very closely. Today, when the turn came for the government side there was ample time, in the view of the Speaker, for both that question and another question. As the member will know, while we have a time clock, the Speaker sees the clock. I note with interest that today we did manage 14 questions in total, which is the average number of questions this House can normally accomplish when the questions are put speedily and there is a response in a speedy fashion as well.

But his point is well taken, and what will be of assistance to all the members is if everyone could resist the temptation of using provocative language. I understand his point full well and I think the concern he raised was recognized today by the Speaker.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: It has to do with a specific word that was in fact used. The word "hypocrisy" has been known to be unparliamentary when it has been used. I know you could not have failed to hear it—you should have heard it anyway—when the member for Durham West used it to describe the Conservative Party in his preamble to his last supplementary. I know that it had also been used by another member, but clearly the statement by the member for Durham West would be recorded in Hansard since he was given the floor.

Is it your view now, Mr Speaker, with respect to that word that if it is used to describe a political party as opposed to a member, it is parliamentary to use that word in this place when a member has the floor? If not, I would ask that you invite the member for Durham West, who is now here with us, to withdraw that comment and correct that record.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce, there are two items here. No, first, I did not hear the precise words. I trust the member will appreciate that there seemed to be a number of other voices that were operating at the same time. He is partially right. The term "hypocrisy" or to be "hypocritical" or to be a "hypocrite": It depends on the precise usage of the word. It depends on how it's used as to whether or not it can be deemed to be unparliamentary at the time, so it depends on each and every situation. As has been my custom, if there is

custom, if there is something which has been said which offends someone on the other side of the House, or indeed any other member of the House even within the same caucus, and the Speaker has not heard it, I then certainly invite the member to acknowledge what has been said and withdraw it.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): This is a really interesting discussion that we're having here about the use of the word "hypocrisy." I remember having used the phrase some time earlier on in my career here, at which point the Speaker ruled that it was not acceptable to use it. Then a little while later on one of the members from the official opposition used it. I rose on a point of order in the House and asked the Speaker under what circumstances it was acceptable or unacceptable to use the word. The ruling at that point was that in the context the member used it, it was not unparliamentary at that time.

That has created some confusion in the whole discussion around the use of the word because it has been used a number of times in the House. I would agree with the solicitation from the members opposite as to under what circumstances it would be unparliamentary to use it, and should, Mr Speaker, the ruling indicate that I used it in an unparliamentary way at that time, I would be more than willing to withdraw it but I would like some clarification from you.

The Speaker: I do not propose at this moment to go into a discussion about the use of particular words. If the member may wish to visit my office at some point, I'd be more than pleased to discuss it with him. He was simply given an opportunity, that if he felt he said something which offended the other side, to withdraw it. I take it the member is not prepared to do that. It is time for motions.

USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm rising to seek your advice and direction under standing order 32(a). If I might just, sir, quote the opening words of section 32(a) dealing with oral question period, it reads as follows: "The oral question period shall be limited to 60 minutes, including supplementary questions and points of order. Questions on matters of urgent public importance may be addressed to the ministers of the crown but the Speaker shall disallow any question which he or she does not consider urgent or of public importance." It's on that last phrase, sir, that I seek your direction and advice under that standing order.

If I might just, sir, point out that over the course of the past week, if you just take the Hansards for the past week, there have been several questions asked by members of the government caucus directed to ministers in the government caucus which I would submit to you, sir, do not come within the heading of being of "urgent public importance." For example, there was a question delivered by, I guess it was, Mr Mills on June 4 to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Ms Haslam, which provided an opportunity for the minister to in effect make a minister's statement.

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): What ministry?

Mr Sorbara: I'm sorry, did I get the minister wrong? It was the Minister of Culture and Communications.

1540

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the member quickly get to his point of order.

Mr Sorbara: Well, sir, to argue the point if you'll indulge me for just a moment, we had the same situation today from the member for Durham-York, directing a question to the Minister of the Environment and the minister responsible for the GTA. We had a similar question on, I think the date was Wednesday, June 10, this time from Mr Hansen directed to Ms Gigantes in her capacity as Minister of Housing.

My point is simply this: I would not argue, sir, that government members ought not to be allowed to ask questions, to put questions to ministers in question period. Certainly if you examine the standing orders, as I have on this case, there is every indication that all members ought to have a right to place questions to ministers who are here in the House. But, sir, if government members are simply putting questions to ministers in order to take up some of the 60 minutes allotted to question period, then I think you, sir, have an opportunity and indeed I would suggest to you a responsibility to intervene to ensure that that part of the standing order which says: "The Speaker shall"—it's not may—"The Speaker shall disallow any question which he or she does not consider to be urgent or of public importance"—now if I might just—

The Speaker: No. I understand what the member is attempting to do.

There are a number of points here. First of all, if any member of the House feels a question is being asked which is not of public importance, that is a point of order and should be raised immediately. Second, I believe the member would agree that it is extremely difficult for the Speaker to determine what is not of public importance.

Third, and finally, the member will know that the standing orders prescribe a rotation by three parties for the purpose of asking questions. Once the question has been placed, provided it satisfies the criteria of being of public importance, then the question must be allowed. I appreciate the concern the member raises, and indeed I'm sure that all members want to bring to this chamber, through their own vetting system—as I understand it—each of the caucuses' questions which are of importance to them and trustfully to their constituents.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just wanted to mention that there's an informational picket line, as all know, at the east doors of this building. We're gathering tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock to show some solidarity for the striking workers at The Toronto Star. We hope many people come out. Mr Speaker, much to my better judgement, I'd like to see Derek Ferguson back to work.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): That is not a point of order, although certainly a point of information for all members.

PETITIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery, we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

Mr Speaker, that petition is two pages in length. It has been signed by, I guess, something in the area of 35 or 40 people and those individuals are individuals who are employed with ITT Fluid Products Canada, located in Guelph at 55 Royal Road. I sign my name to this petition.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I am pleased to table a petition signed by concerned constituents from my riding of Oakville South which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not to legalize casino gambling in Ontario to increase provincial revenue."

ONTARIO WASTE MANAGEMENT CORP

Mr Ron Hansen (Lincoln): I have a petition to the Legislature of Ontario.

"Whereas the Ontario Waste Management Corp is proposing to build and operate a huge centralized toxic waste incinerator at a landfill site in the heart of Ontario's fruit land;

"Whereas toxic waste must be treated at the source because transportation of such huge volumes of toxic waste on our highways is suicidal,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario to change the mandate and directions being promoted by this crown corporation."

I also have another petition to the Legislature of Ontario on a scroll of over 700 feet long, with more than 6,000 names of residents of Niagara against locating, by the OWMC, a toxic waste facility in Lincoln. The large size of this petition shows the large opposition to the OWMC locating in Lincoln.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): I want to remind all members that demonstrations within the chamber are out of order. I would like you to remember that, please.

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition which has been signed by representatives from 68 organizations, including the Metro Children's Aid Society, the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation, the Metro Tenants Legal Services and the Scarborough Housing Work Group plus 64 other organizations.

"Whereas there is a shortage of affordable rental housing units in Ontario; and

"Whereas this shortage most affects individuals and groups facing discrimination and social and economic disadvantage, for example, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, first nations people, women, gay men and lesbians, seniors, youth, single parents, people with children, people with disabilities, psychiatric survivors and people on social assistance; and

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Code affirms that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, handicap or receipt of social assistance, which is section 2(1), and that any policy or factor which results in the exclusion of people who come within the prohibited grounds of discrimination is illegal; and

"Whereas people who cannot afford to buy a house are often excluded from the lower-density neighbourhoods which are generally well served by community, educational and recreational services; and

"Whereas many thousands of home owners in all municipalities across Ontario have created additional units in their homes that have not changed the quality of life in their neighbourhoods; and

"Whereas tenants in such illegal units are not guaranteed the legal rights and protections that tenants in legal units have, therefore creating two classes of tenants; and

"Whereas zoning is only supposed to control land use, in practice it has excluded members of disadvantaged groups from living in many neighbourhoods; and

"Whereas such zoning practices are exclusionary and are a violation of the rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

"Whereas the province of Ontario agreed to article XI of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a treaty signed by Canada and 96 other nations, which recognizes that housing is one of the fundamental human rights, an aspect of which is the right not to be discriminated against in housing choice and location;

"We therefore petition the government of Ontario, in particular the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Citizenship responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Code, to immediately put an end to this widespread violation of human rights across the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

1550

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have a petition signed by 176 citizens of the province of Ontario, most of whom live in London and Middlesex county. It is organized by Ruth Woods, the Citizens' Initiative and Referendum Committee. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, as citizens of the province of Ontario, believe the Constitution of any genuinely democratic society truly belongs to its people, and that our views on any changes to Canada's Constitution must be heard, and final approval of such changes must be given by the citizens of Ontario;

"Whereas up to this time there has been very limited opportunity for input from grass-roots Ontarians,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We request of you who administer the affairs of this province to make available every opportunity for the people to see and understand fully what the new Constitution, and/or any amendments thereto, will mean to each of us, and then make provision for a final 'say' by the people of Ontario by way of a binding referendum."

I've signed my signature to this petition, and I will forward it to the Clerk of the House.

NON-PROFIT HOUSING COOPERATIVE

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I have a petition from 222 tenants of Twin Elms Estates—that represents over 96% of all residents there—who petition as follows: that they are not in favour of the non-profit cooperative being formed by the owner of Twin Elms Estates under the name of Elmbrook Non-Profit Co-operative Homes Inc. The tenants believe there has been no shown benefit to them, financial or otherwise. There has been no meeting or proposed meeting for these tenants to join this association. This is in contravention of an agreement of understanding dated and signed at London, Ontario, on 16 October 1991. The tenants request that the Minister of Financial Institutions dissolve the Elmbrook non-profit cooperative.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas we, as citizens of the province of Ontario, believe the Constitution of any genuinely democratic society truly belongs to its people and that our views on any changes to Canada's Constitution must be heard and final approval of such changes must be given by the citizens of Ontario;

"Whereas up to this time there has been very limited opportunity for input from grass-roots Ontarians,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"We request of you who administer the affairs of this province to make available every opportunity for the people to see and understand fully what the new Constitution, and/or any amendments thereto, will mean to each of us, and then make provision for a final 'say' by the people of Ontario by way of a binding referendum."

I too have signed my signature to this.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr Brad Ward (Brantford): I have a petition signed by 198 honest, hardworking citizens of Brantford. The petition is against Sunday shopping.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the French Language Services Act, 1986, Bill 8, continues to elevate tensions and misunderstandings over language issues throughout the province, not only at the provincial but also at municipal levels; and

"Whereas the current government disputes its self-serving select committee and intends to encourage increased use of French in the courts, schools and other provincial services to ensure that the French Language Services Act is working well to the best of their concentrated efforts; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of government to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the duplication of departments, translations etc to comply not only with the written but also the unwritten intent of the French Language Services Act; and

"Whereas the spiralling costs of education to the taxpayer are being forced even higher due to the demands of yet another board of education, the French-language school board,

"We, the undersigned, request that the French Language Services Act be repealed and its artificial structures dismantled immediately and English be declared as the official language of Ontario in governments, its institutions and services."

I will affix my name to this petition, but I do not support it.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): I have a petition, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the NDP government is considering legalizing casinos and video lottery terminals in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas there is great public concern about the negative impact that will result from the abovementioned implementations,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government stop looking to casinos and video lottery terminals as a quick-fix solution to its fiscal problems and concentrate instead on eliminating wasteful government spending."

I have affixed my signature to this petition.

LAND-LEASED COMMUNITIES

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition here signed by a number of residents within my constituency.

"We, the residents of land-leased communities, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake felt that the previous government set up a committee to report on land-leased communities but took no specific action to protect these communities; and

"Whereas the residents of Sutton-By-The-Lake feel it should be a priority of this government to release the report and to take action to bring forward legislation and the following issues that surround land-leased communities; and

"Whereas the residents feel that the government of Ontario should examine the problem of no protection against conversion to other uses which would result in the loss of home owners' equity; and

"Whereas the residents of these communities do not receive concise and clear information about their property tax bills; and

"Whereas there are often arbitrary rules set by landlords and owners of land-leased communities which place unfair restrictions or collect commissions on resales of residents' homes; and

"Whereas there has been confusion resulting in the status of residents where long-term leases fall under the rent review legislation,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to follow through and to release the committee report on land-leased communities and propose legislation to give adequate protection to individuals who live in land-leased communities."

It's been signed by the Martins, McElroys and the Perrys, and I affix my name to this as well as many others.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY ÉQUITÉ D'EMPLOI

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): This petition is in reaction to the layoff of 85 francophone employees.

«Étant donné que la seule école provinciale de langue française disparaît après 20 ans d'existence ; et

«Étant donné que 85 francophones perdent leur emploi sans aucune possibilité de réintégration sur le marché du travail, bien que ce groupe soit déjà sous-représenté au sein de la fonction publique »;

"Whereas the majority of positions designated bilingual are occupied by non-francophones, the French Language Services Act is consequently being applied under false pretences;

"Whereas the NDP has no intention of recognizing francophones within the employment equity legislation, francophones are consequently artificially treated as a target group within the Ontario public service;"

«Étant donné qu'il y a une montée évidente d'un sentiment antifrancophone au sein du secrétariat du Conseil de gestion, qui doit faire preuve de leadership à tous les niveaux de la fonction publique ontarienne.»

Mr Speaker, I have signed the petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have a petition signed by 141 citizens from Coldwater, London, Wheatley and Keswick, Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to the Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I signed this, Mr Speaker, and I'll put a date on it too and send it to you, and I hope it gets to the government.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Mr Hansen from the standing committee on finance and economic affairs presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 150, An Act to provide for the Creation and Registration of Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations to Invest in Eligible Ontario Businesses and to make certain other amendments.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

1600

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, perhaps you can help me; I'm not sure if it's a point of order or privilege. On page 50 of the Orders and Notices section published today, questions 382 and 383 were questions that were placed by myself, the first one to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the flight plans, including passenger lists, costs etc, of Ministry of Natural Resources aircraft, and the second to the Solicitor General with the same request for information for Ontario Provincial Police aircraft.

These two questions were filed in accordance with the standing order 95(a) and were properly printed in time. The ministers in question are allotted under section 95(d), where it says:

"The minister shall answer such written questions within 14 calendar days unless he or she indicates that more time is required because the answer will be costly or time-consuming or that he or she declines to answer, in which case a notation shall be made on the Orders and Notices paper following the question indicating that the minister has made an interim answer, the approximate date that the information will be available, or that the minister has declined to answer, as the case may be."

There's no remedy for a minister refusing to follow section 95(d) in response to those questions. The 14 days have expired. I've had no indication. I've not had a refusal. My questions have simply been ignored by both ministers. I look to you for some direction as to how I can get a response, either that they are refusing to answer, and in

such case it would be noted in the Orders and Notices section that they have refused to answer, or that they need more time. I'm quite prepared to give them more time if there is some delay, but I'm at somewhat of a disadvantage and feel that my privileges are being violated by the two ministers. I look for your direction.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): The honourable member does have a valid point of order. The time limits have gone beyond prior to an answer. I would advise the two ministers responsible to please take note and act accordingly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SHER-BASSIN GROUP INC ACT, 1992

Mr White moved first reading of Bill Pr30, An Act to revive The Sher-Bassin Group Inc.

Motion agreed to.

DROP THE PENNY ACT, 1992 LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ABANDON DES PIÈCES D'UN CENT

Mr Sterling moved first reading of Bill 66, An Act respecting the rounding of the Penny in Cash Transactions / Loi prévoyant l'arrondissement des sommes dans les opérations au comptant.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjections: No.

The Acting Speaker: I heard some nays.

All those in favour please say "aye."

All those opposed please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: Does the honourable member for Carleton have some brief remarks pertaining to his bill?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Yes. I wish the Speaker would let me get my two cents' worth in here.

I rise today to introduce a private member's bill entitled Drop the Penny Act, 1992. As its title suggests, this act would create a new acceptable business practice respecting cash transactions by requiring cash amounts for goods and services to be rounded up or down to the nearest nickel, thereby relieving us of the burden of carrying, counting and rolling pennies.

This bill provides that businesses be permitted to round the total amount owing in cash transactions, including all taxes, to the nearest multiple of five cents. Transactions within financial institutions are exempted from the requirement. Businesses which notify the public by posting a sign that they do not round cash amounts are exempted from the requirement. A customer charged a rounded amount would be required to pay that amount, be it to his advantage or disadvantage. However, a person may request at the beginning of the transaction that the total not be rounded.

I believe the penny has become little more than a public nuisance in our day-to-day business transactions, and

Ontarians would appreciate no longer having to contend with them. Some will immediately claim that this matter lies within the federal jurisdiction, and they would be correct if my goal was to ban the usage of the penny. However, it is possible for the province of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly to permit a business practice of rounding up or down to the nearest nickel in a cash transaction.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE HUMAN HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO RADON IN INDOOR AIR ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR LES EFFETS SUR LA SANTÉ D'EXPOSITION AU RADON DANS L'AIR À L'INTÉRIEUR DES BÂTIMENTS

Mr Elston moved first reading of Bill 67, An Act to require the Minister of the Environment to direct an Investigation into the Deleterious Human Health Effects of Exposure to Radon in Indoor Air / Loi enjoignant au ministre de l'Environnement d'ordonner une enquête déterminant les effets néfastes du radon existant dans l'air à l'intérieur de bâtiments sur la santé des humains qui y sont exposé.

Motion agreed to.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Just very briefly, I know that this just deals with the issue of indoor air, but I thought, in putting forward the bill, that we should study the effects of radon in this context first. I know there is a much bigger issue, and my colleague the member for Cochrane South is about to come and discuss with me the issue in mines. But I wanted to bring to the attention of all of the members of the House and the people in the public that this issue should be at least addressed in some small way to begin with, and then we will have a place perhaps to start with the bigger issue around radon gas and its effects on human health. In my view, this is just the beginning.

1610

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXTENDED HOURS OF MEETING

Mrs Coppen moved, on behalf of Mr Cooke, government notice of motion number 8, pursuant to standing order 6(b):

That, notwithstanding standing order 9, the House shall continue to meet from 6 pm to 12 midnight on June 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1992, at which time the Speaker shall adjourn the House without motion until the next sessional day.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): Did the honourable member have comments on this motion?

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I beg the indulgence of the members of the House on this point of order, but I do require some clarification, particularly in light of the motion that has just been moved to extend our sitting hours from 6 until midnight for the balance of this session.

My point of order relates to that provision in the standing orders which provides that no government bill that is introduced in the final two weeks of the session may be called forward by the government for second reading. In

other words, to simplify the matter, if a bill is introduced today by the government, being that we are now in the final two weeks of this session, that bill cannot be called for second reading. I understand the purpose of that rule—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I do not believe the honourable member has a point of order. He certainly has a point of debate.

Mr Sorbara: If you might just indulge me for a moment, sir, what I'm trying to find out from you is simply this: There has been some discussion about the fact that this Parliament might be invited by the government House leader to sit during the month of July. There's no provision in the standing orders for us to sit during the month of July. If a government bill is presented for first reading in the House today or in these last two weeks, I know the standing orders provide that it can't get second reading during the last two weeks.

I'm asking you, sir, to make a ruling that that bill cannot have second reading in the extended version of the last two weeks, which the government suggests might be coming forward, notwithstanding that it's also trying to get us to sit during the evening, pursuant to the motion that's before us.

My point of order is simply in the form of a question: If they introduce a bill today, are we allowed to debate that bill for second reading if we are required to sit here during the first, second, third or fourth week of July, or indeed during the month of August? That's possible. Apparently the government wants us to sit through a good part of the summer.

I think we need some direction now, a clear-cut determination from the Speaker that it would be improper and out of order to call a bill for second reading during July and August if it's introduced during these final two weeks. I'd like you to reflect on that, sir, and give us a ruling so that we can understand exactly what is going to be before us during the summer months.

The Acting Speaker: I wish to thank the honourable member for York Centre for bringing up a point of discussion. I do not believe it's a point of order. It's hypothetical at this point. We have not had any bills. Until such time as we do have bills come in during the last two weeks for second reading, at that particular point in time we can discuss and indeed arrive at, hopefully, a mutually agreeable understanding.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): If we are now ready to resume the debate on the motion, I'm prepared to speak, if that's now in order. Is that okay?

The Acting Speaker: I believe it's in order. I want to remind all members the clock is running.

Mr Elston: And the members are too, Mr Speaker. We are quite aware of the clock this afternoon. We have been up and going since 1:30 of the clock this afternoon. We welcome your attendance in the House to guide us expeditiously through this debate.

This is a notice of motion which is allowed under the standing orders, but I think, Mr Speaker, I should bring to your attention the question that I have in my mind right at the very start of my remarks about whether or not it is in

order for the government to bring this motion forward today.

The reason I'm bringing this to you is that the nature of this standing order and the amendment brought were designed to allow the government of the day to expedite dealing with its business in the last eight days, so that it could clear off its list of bills it hadn't been able to get to when it had done what it could to expedite the carriage of the legislation through the House.

May I ask for order, Mr Speaker?

The Acting Speaker: Yes. We have a lot of noise around the chamber, many conversations. The honourable member for Bruce is debating a very important motion. Please, I ask all members to come to order. The honourable member for Bruce has the floor.

Mr Elston: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I understand that the general business of the day requires people to leave and do other things, but today we're actually being asked to do something unusual under the standing orders. I was rising, first of all, to bring to your attention the fact that I believe there is some question of whether or not this motion is in order, even though it complies with the standing orders, on the basis that in order to have what is called in the legal field "clean hands" to come before Her Majesty's Legislative Assembly to move this, the government ought to be seen to have prosecuted its business with dispatch and with the diligence that is required of any reasonable parliamentary government.

Mr Speaker, I start by contending to you that this administration has done almost everything it can to frustrate the carrying out of the business of this place through various and sundry means of tactics which were designed to do what they ultimately did a week ago Thursday, and that is drop on the Orders and Notices paper the motion to unilaterally change the rules that govern the activities in this House. They complained that they were unable to get to their business. In one of the press releases which the government House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside, dropped on the unsuspecting public on Monday following the Thursday motion to the table, he said that there were 121 bills that they had wished to have introduced for this session and that unfortunately they had been unable to get to their business.

Mr Speaker, I want to bring to your attention that up till the time when that had occurred only about 17 bills had been introduced, and of those fully 14 had been introduced between the dates of May 26 and June 4. We could not possibly have done the business, nor could we have even deliberated upon them in our caucuses, as is the way and the tradition in this place, to determine the reaction of each parliamentarian and each caucus to each of these bills.

Now, it's not as important for the people who are members of the New Democratic Party in this chamber to be able to go to caucus to talk about these bills, because any bill that is introduced in this place has been the product of the work of the executive council and the Premier of this august government. As a result, the backbenchers are told that they must support the bills, and support the bills they

will, with maybe one or two very notable exceptions with respect to one or two very notable pieces of legislation.

But for us in the opposition who, when the bill is dropped on the table, see it for the very first time, the opportunity to have caucus on these matters, which occurs but once a week, on Tuesday morning of each week, is an important deliberation which will determine exactly how we proceed to get to the basis of any real criticism of the legislation.

Some people may think that the members of this House only have to go and sit in a corner someplace during caucus, read the bill through and then come up with their own conclusion about whether it is meritorious or not. I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that in fact is not the way things are done for the opposition members of this House, and I dare say there are one or two members who are well known on the government side of the House for whom that is not the way of the world either. In fact, what we have to do when we first see a bill is not only to take it out to our party colleagues but also to reach out into the communities to ask the people for whom the legislation is being brought forward or, in some cases, against whom the legislation is being brought forward, what their reaction is, and what legal reaction there may be with respect to some of the provisions in the bills.

1620

There isn't a hope at all that the government of the day really wanted to bring 121 pieces of legislation forward. In fact, they could have done all that had they chosen to do so. They didn't do it; they brought, as we said, 17 bills forward to June 4 and since that time have brought forward two or three others just to make it look, as my colleague from Parry Sound described it, as if they were busy little beavers in this place in particular weeks.

It seems to me that what they have done is to hold back from the public the real world of New Democratic Party policy. In fact, they've probably even held that back from the provincial council. If I were to guess, do you know the reason why they didn't really start to introduce bills until May 26? I think they were quite concerned about the reaction of the provincial council. They really only wanted to talk about Sunday shopping, but if they had talked to them about a whole bunch of other bills they dropped on the table at that provincial council there would have been a scandalous outcome, probably a censure of the Premier, Bob Rae, by his own provincial council.

I know those people to be generally outspoken individuals and I'm sure the outspoken nature of their deliberations on Sunday shopping were extremely helpful to the Premier who, of course, came back after that weekend retreat and said, "Oh, I heard them all right, but it's my way or it's the doorway." It looks like the doorways on Sundays, according to the Premier, have been open despite the provincial council.

Mr Speaker, you might well ask yourself, what would have been the result had there been, along with the Sunday shopping legislation, a clear understanding of where the New Democrats were going for that provincial council meeting? My goodness, 121 pieces of legislation were referred to those women and men who make up the élite, the

intelligentsia of the party, the very essence of the resolve to formulate socialist doctrine into policy to practically transform our dear Ontario into a socialist international refuge.

I could guess what they would have said had all 121 of the government's intended pieces of legislation—maybe I should describe it as phantom legislation—already been in Orders and Notices. Can you imagine some of the people in that provincial council coming forward and saying: "But Mr Premier, what is this? You're selling Consumers' Gas to the Brits? Mr Premier, you've let Massey-Ferguson go over to Buffalo. Mr Premier, what is left of your Agenda for People?"

I only go that route to begin with to say that not only was the Premier trying to prevent this body from deliberating upon its full and intended legislative scheme in this place, but also that he was trying to frustrate democracy inside the New Democratic Party. I should explain off the top that while I have a lot of very—

Hon Shirley Coppen (Minister without Portfolio):
Hot air.

Mr Elston: Yes, hot air; who knows what it is?

I have a lot of respect with regard to a lot of the thinking that has gone into a lot of the platforms that have been brought forward by the New Democrat Party from time to time. I admit fully up front to not being an adherent. In fact, I don't agree with a good bit of it, but most of it has been formulated after a fairly good deliberation has taken place, and they've got democratic forums in which that can take place. I was really interested in watching the Sunday shopping shenanigans retreat where the Premier said: "Well, I'm going to listen, but if I hear something I don't like that's their problem. I know what I'm doing and the stores are open."

Let me come back to where I was at. After the Premier has frustrated both that group and this group, he now comes to us to say he's got 121 pieces of legislation that he could not present in this House. I'm just telling you, with my version of the story, that he had no intention of introducing those bills. He had no intention of coming to do legislation in an orderly and reasonable fashion. Why? It is so that he can cast a veil over the way this place operates so that he can tell the people out in the public, the people who are watching this program today or the people who read the newspapers or anybody who gathers around the coffee tables throughout this province, that there's no work getting done here.

He didn't bring the work to this place. I asked last week, and you probably remember me posing the question to the government House leader, Mr Speaker: If you have 121 pieces of legislation, table the list. Let us, in this place, see if not the bills, at least the list of principles of the bills you want to bring so at least we can be prepared to start to deliberate on these things. "Was that list forthcoming? The list was not forthcoming to this place. He would not share it with us."

The reason there was no sharing or intent to share that material with us in this House was so that he could frustrate our preparation, so that he could frustrate our outreach to the public, which would be affected by these

pieces of legislation, so that the principles could not be found out, so that the principles could not be debated in our caucuses and so that he could put in front of the public the question, "Is this place working well?" and get the answer, "No, it can't be working well because you haven't passed very much legislation."

Before the meal can be had, the table must be set. The table, in this case, has not been beset with legislation. If anything, this has been the slowest time I have ever seen in my 11 years, with one small exception, and that was at the time when the then Premier, Mr Davis from Brampton, was deliberating, to a certain extent, with respect to his federal aspirations. At that point there was a slowdown. It was an understandable one and it was temporary, but it was really understandable.

From my point of view, while I regard the table officers as very able, I don't think they need to have had so much time off from reading bills in English and French in this House that their language skills would become rusty if they were pressed on a surprise to start reading these bills again. It's nice to have our table officers being able to participate on a routine basis and get to practise their skills day by day.

Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): Murray, Murray.

Mr Elston: When I come back to the issue—

Mr Christopherson: Talk about a reach.

Mr Elston: There's somebody interrupting me, Mr Speaker. The member for Hamilton Centre, Mr Christopherson, wants to join the debate. In fact, I'm going to welcome him to join the debate about why his party is unilaterally moving to change the rules and why it is bringing forward this piece of government business to extend our sitting time so that we can deal not with legislation but with the government's unilateral attempt to change the very nature of the business in this place.

While I'm on my feet and am reminded of it, Bob Rae, although he can, at his peril, completely disregard what goes on at the provincial council of his party, wouldn't have the nerve to walk into that provincial council and say: "Ladies and gentlemen, women and men, boys and girls"—whatever—"I am bringing in a unilateral change to the New Democratic Party of this province because I don't want to listen to you very long. I don't want to have you raising the business you want to talk about. I want to do what I want to do. You better heave to or else you get a unilateral rule change." He wouldn't have done that to the New Democratic Party in this province. They wouldn't have stood for it.

Does he do it to our House here, the provincial council of all the people of the province? I was at an elementary school today in Wingham, where I used to live. I enjoy that. I enjoy going and speaking with the young people in this province for two reasons. I think they should be more interested in dealing with what we used to call social studies, Mr Speaker, when you and I might have been in elementary school, or civics as it was called a little bit later, or just in how we do business in this place.

I love to describe this really beautiful chamber to those young people who will be voting in maybe, most of them I guess, about seven or eight years, that this is but a council chamber, that this is but a provincial council chamber for all the people of the province to see and watch, to participate in through their members, so that they can have something to say about whatever it is that comes forward here.

Bob Rae wouldn't have changed his provincial council in his New Democratic Party, but he is changing the people's council chamber rules. He is dealing with the rights of the people who have elected me to represent them from Bruce, who have elected you from S-D-G & East Grenville—how I wish it was still Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, but that's another matter, Mr Speaker.

1630

For me, the point of order is this: The Premier is asking us—let's not play games, let's not say it's the government House leader; the government House leader only does the Premier's bidding—but the Premier of this province has come to move this motion on us to have us sitting from 6 o'clock till 12 o'clock each evening because he wants us to be worn down, to be ground down under the boots of the people he has chosen to put his case until we are unable to stand, and withstand, the direct assault on the intelligence of the people—for his own gain, the gain of his party. What is his gain? His gain in these last eight days is to have unilateral changes to the rules of the way this place does business.

Having gone through all that, I come to my point that I believe makes this out of order. After going through all of that, it seems clear to me that it is in order to use this motion, this government notice of motion 8 under standing order 6(b), only when the government had reasonably made effort to prosecute its business in the usual days provided for the government to do business.

When you deliberate upon that—and I expect you at the end of the debate to come back with a decision about whether or not it is in order—I would ask you, Mr Speaker, to reflect upon not only the foregoing that I have provided but also this piece of information: The government came back to this House fully one full month after it was scheduled to be here; not one week or two weeks, but a calendar month between the time we were originally scheduled to sit here in this place in March and when we ultimately came to our chairs here in April to listen to the speech from the throne, which is, as you know, supposed to be a story about the government's intention and a demonstration of resolve of will of its legislative scheme.

Mr Speaker, I regret to tell you that that full month could have been useful to us to go through a whole series of government bills. In fact, it could have helped us as private members to prosecute our business in this place, but the Premier made a real decision not to come back here. Why? Why did he not come back here? There are a couple of reasons. I believe it is the government's intention and the Premier's intention not to be in this House so that he does not have to be critically questioned by the people from our party, and—enjoyably, and on a more frequent basis—by the people from his own party who are becoming

restless with the Premier's meanderings through the New Democratic Party policy manuals.

I have been taken by some of the very cutting questions from members of the government party. I applaud as well, not to leave any out, questions from the opposition benches, but in my 11 years, having seen a Conservative administration, a Liberal administration and now a New Democratic Party administration, there are few chances for backbench people to put their case unless the government is really running roughshod over them. In this case, the diligence with which the questions are being asked by the New Democratic Party backbenchers means to me they are not having a place to put their real questions in their caucuses, that they are not having time to make representations to their ministers, which really is surprising because this New Democratic Party administration came forward with the great credentials of being open to consultation, open and accessible to everybody. The work here by the backbench members in some of their questions obviously tells me that that has fallen by the way.

But there's another reason Mr Rae said he didn't want to come back to this place in March when we were scheduled to be here. He said he didn't want to come back because he didn't have all the ramifications of the federal budget well resolved in his own mind, so he didn't know what he could do. Anybody who knows anything about government, including almost all of us now in this House, I hope, knows full well that the knowledge of the staff in the executive council chambers and in the ministers' offices and, in particular, in the Premier's office, is such that they know what's going on in Ottawa, they know the ramifications of some of the steps taken by those federal people, whether we like them or not.

I suspect, Mr Speaker, even though you happen to be a member of a party which sits just to my left but dwells most assuredly to my right, that we don't always agree with what our federal colleagues do to us and for us. I remember a time, in fact, if I can digress just a moment, when my former leader, Mr Peterson, from London Centre, had mentioned something about someone being a millstone; that statement certainly rode heavily upon all of us for a long time. I might say it's been interesting to listen to the leader of the third party, someone who's come to describing himself as Brother Mike—I find that exceptional—and has noted with some great sense of pride that he disagrees with the Prime Minister of this great country when it comes to certain policies that are brought forward.

Mr Speaker, I can tell you that the Premier of Ontario has a lot more access to information in the federal bureaucracy and in the federal political parties down there than probably the opposition people do. And Mr Rae, although protesting that he didn't have enough information to prosecute his legislative agenda, had all kinds of it. He already knew there were going to be changes in the amount of transfers coming from Ottawa because we, as a Liberal administration, had been faced with those for a number of years prior to us losing office in 1990. How in the world can we let this fellow protest and keep us out of this place and play games with us when we know full well

that he is possessive of the knowledge required to prosecute the business of the House?

What else is it that tells me that those two pieces of factual information, or at least my assumptions around the facts, are correct? Why should I assume that he was merely ducking out of questions and that he was pretending not to have federal information? He said the second, but I believe the first; because the gentleman who occupies the position of Premier of this province is rarely, if ever, in this Legislative Assembly so that people can actually put questions to him. Even on the days that he stays in his place for question period after he comes to make an important announcement, as he did today in this House, he rises and leaves the chamber almost without exception by 3 o'clock in the afternoon, even though he knows full well that question period is but 60 minutes every day and that there are routine proceedings which govern the way we carry on the business of this place.

But he gets up and walks out. Not only does he walk out of this chamber and leave us all, including his colleagues, but he takes with him the press. The press all go as well. He frustrates the backbench members who have come to ask the questions their people need to have answered if we are to prosecute our positions as members of this place in the best way possible. He leaves us. He either doesn't come here or he leaves us—or he doesn't call the House back at all.

So, Mr Speaker, when you look at my point of order around this question being brought forward now, it would seem to me that you should keep in mind those three pieces of information so that you could ask yourself, has there been due diligence by the government to prosecute its business? Was there in fact an honest attempt to bring forward a legislative agenda that could be dealt with in reasonable time in the usual hours of the calendar as established by the standing orders?

I know, Mr Speaker, that you will say that under standing order 6(b), which this motion comes under, there really isn't a need to look at whether or not it should be or could be brought in; that there is no question for you to consider. But in all cases, it seems to me, Mr Speaker, in your position as a mediator of problems in this House when disputes cannot be resolved, you should at least ask yourself if there has not been an abuse of the standing orders by the government by not bringing forward its legislation with dispatch.

I understand the nature of the government's desires. Anybody who has been a minister would like to stand in his or her place, introduce a bill, move to second reading, go to third reading and get the business over with. Whether you happen to be Tory or Liberal or New Democrat, as a minister or as a parliamentary assistant, you have talked to people. Enough about these shenanigans and all the parties' talk about there never being consultation. Even when I was here in 1981 and forward, it was obvious the groups had been consulted by the Tories. They didn't always like what the Tories did to them—for them—

Interjection: "To them" or "for them"?

1640

Mr Elston: They've asked me to clarify whether the Tories did things to the people or for the people, but the Tories used to tell me they were doing things to the people for the people's own good. But that's another story which we'll talk about another day.

I can tell you that despite everything that has been said, the Liberals and the Conservatives and the New Democrats, as ministers or parliamentary assistants, will have talked to the people who have a position to put on almost all policies. But the fact of the matter is, clearly more than ever before, you can't agree with everybody. Whatever that means to all of us, you can't agree with everybody all the time. So it's not without some desire that the ministers have come to this place as Grits or Tories or New Democrats to drop their bills on the table and say, "Let's get on with it, let's get it done, let's get it out of here, because I've talked enough."

I was a minister in the government of David Peterson for some five years, some few months, hours, minutes. I've got it written down in my diary with some sense of fondness. I go back to that once in a while as I like to recall better and greater days. But maybe there will be something coming when I can get a new diary and have a new time starting to run it. In fact, the member for Fort William—my leader, Lyn McLeod—will do that for us here. I just want to do that as an aside. She will prosecute government business in a way which will keep us moving reasonably here. I know the government wants to bring its bills, get them on the table, and get them out of here, but that's not the way of this world.

It wasn't the way in 1981, when the government of Bill Davis brought forward some legislation with respect to wage controls. You may remember them, Mr Speaker. I believe in those days you had a position with another government body and probably were affected by the five-and-six scheme that was brought forward. We debated Bill 179 for a long, long time. We were in committee a long, long time. I was an opposition member in those days. We came back to the House and we talked about it. Then we talked about the companion piece, which was Bill 111, the following year, which talked about more controls. We talked about those a long, long time.

I remember going in to committee and listening to each president of each local of OPSEU come forward. I was quite interested in listening to the women and men who appeared before us to tell us what their situation would be like if these bills were to be passed.

There are other bills about which we deliberated during the Tory administration for a long, long time. I know some of those ministers of that day personally. It must have been painful indeed to listen to us.

Mr Speaker, if my speech gets a little bit long today and somewhat painful, I only remind you that in 1981, 1982 and 1983 I was a new member, and I can well advise that I will not go back and read those speeches. If anybody does, he needs to be examined, because those speeches were really just filler and there wasn't much to them.

In the days of the Liberal administration, I was a minister. I brought in a couple of pieces of legislation; more than

that, but at least a couple that generated a fair bit of debate. There wouldn't have been anything to make me happier than to see everybody on the opposition benches stand up and say: "Well done, member for Huron-Bruce. Boy, are we happy we got this thing in front of us. Let's get it over with."

The Health Care Accessibility Act generated some discussion among the Tory partisans of the day. It was real debate and it was strong debate. Not only that, the New Democrats, the opposition party in that day, also had to have their day. I remember the day when Larry Grossman, as he then was and still is, stood in this place and sent a portable phone over to David Peterson and said, "Call the doctors." I remember the day Larry sent his people back down the hall to get the phone back from David. I think Larry wanted to make a call or two.

I remember then Bob Rae sitting just about where my colleague the member for Carleton now sits and writes his important messages for the people of this province on his notepaper, saying great things about what the Health Care Accessibility Act would do, could do and should do for the people of the province, and congratulating me for bringing it forth. But I'll tell you, it wasn't done without a lot of time going by, because the New Democrats wanted some share of the ownership of that particular piece of legislation. That's fine, but it was done with a great deal of debate having taken place in the meantime.

The issue at stake in this place, really, is how quickly the government wants to get its business done, how quickly does it want to assert its will, how unresisted it wants to be in prosecuting its business through this place.

When you look at that, in the context of everything else this motion represents, perhaps you could deliberate for a moment on the rights of the minority. The rights of the minority in this case are not only the rights of the Liberals and Conservatives but in my view also represent some of the members on the back bench of the New Democratic Party. I know a couple of those members are looking forward to speaking on the main motion with respect to the unilateral change to the rules. In fact, I suspect there are even one or two of the New Democratic Party members who wish to speak on this motion to extend the sittings beyond 6 o'clock.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): As soon as you sit down.

Mr Elston: The Minister of Transportation asks if I'm thinking about sitting down soon. I cannot sit down soon, Mr Speaker, because I have a great deal to say about the lack on the government's part of the clean hands you need if you're going to bring forward motions like this one, which is really just a smokescreen to push the unilateral rule changes through much more quickly.

What do we need the unilateral rule changes for? We need the unilateral rule changes because the government knows that its bill, the Ontario Labour Relations Amendment Act, has generated a whole lot of public heat. A lot of public sentiment follows with its not passing in this place. A lot of public sentiment follows that it should pass. But

the government of the day doesn't want to take time in this House to really, fully debate that bill.

What do we do? We have the bill itself introduced, then we have the motion to unilaterally change the rules of this place and then following quickly on the heels of that motion, which we began to debate just last week, we come fully to the order and government motion 8, which asks us to sit from 6 till 12 each night from June 15 to June 25. It is no coincidence that this is the order of the introduction of the business of this place. It has been a scheme that has been put together by the government House leader and the Premier of this province designed to do but one thing, and that is to prevent us from doing our real business.

Mr Speaker, when you come to the end of the order of the day and are looking at whether or not this motion is in order, whether or not clean hands are required, as I describe it, to bring that motion, you will deliberate upon all of the machinations that this government has gone through to prove to the public that it can't get its work done.

But so much for my point of order, Mr Speaker, for you to consider whether or not the government really does require clean hands to prosecute a motion under 6(b), as it is now trying to do. Mr Speaker, that is what I want you to consider. There are probably other things I should have spoken about, but if I have something further I will put it in written form and I'll deliver it to you before you make a ruling on whether this is in order and whether the government actually requires clean hands to move what is, although allowed, still an exceptional deviation from what the calendar of the day really prescribes for us.

That is my first point, that there is a point of order for you to consider and that you should deliberate on before we actually vote on this matter.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Are you opposed to going to midnight tonight or to all the rule changes?

1650

Mr Elston: Both. The honourable member for Cochrane South, although out of order, asks the question, "Are you opposed to sitting till 12 o'clock tonight or against the unilateral rule changes?" The answer to both questions is in the affirmative, I'm against sitting till 12 o'clock tonight and tomorrow night and the next night and the next night, and I'm against the unilateral rule changes because I don't believe there has been a real attempt by the government to actually do business by bringing the stuff forward.

I'll go back and I will explain, as I was going to anyway—not to get deviated from my discussion by the member for Cochrane South—what usually happens in the House when we come back to this place when there is a throne speech. That's what we had this April when we returned to this place after our due deliberations, important deliberations, as I recall, Mr Speaker. We spent a wonderful weekend of holiday in Hamilton, you and I and several thousand Liberals. Did you hear that? Several thousand Liberals spent a whole weekend in Hamilton, had a lot of fun and came up with the new energy which is going to allow us to regain some of those halcyon days.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): I thought it was the NDP convention.

Mr Elston: The member for Grey—or Grey-Owen Sound—mentions that he thought it was a New Democratic Party convention; I can tell you it was not. This was a real democratic deliberation. It wasn't like the Premier going to the provincial council meeting, where he goes in and says, "I'm here to listen to the people who represent the party, but whatever you tell me, I don't care, because it's Sunday shopping come noon on Sunday, whether you like it or not."

That's not our Liberal Party. That wouldn't even be the Tory party, for goodness' sake. I know what the Tory party did. They didn't call meetings. Do you remember how many meetings were called by the Progressive Conservative Party during the 43 years it was in power?

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Two.

Mr Elston: I think there were three. The member from Carleton says—

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Please address the Chair.

Mr Elston: Well, Mr Speaker, do you know how many annual meetings were held by the Progressive Conservative Party during its 43 years? The member from Carleton said he thought two. I thought I'd recalled three. What we didn't need to do was call the meetings and then tell the people who showed up, "We don't care what you say anyway," like the Premier did.

Anyway, back to where I was heading, and that was to tell you that in the normal course of business, in the normal course of affairs, I wouldn't resist this motion to sit till midnight in the last eight sessional days. But there are some exceptional circumstances in this case which compel me to stand and speak. In fact, if I can throw us back to December of this year, the government House leader also moved this motion to sit the last eight days till midnight, and I think it is fair to say it was barely discussed in this place. Why? Because the people who were here had determined that they would want to get the business done that was on their platter. Very few pieces of legislation were left except those that were sent out to committees, and there were some very important bills that went out to committee.

However, the one dominating factor in coming to an agreement in the last eight days of the last session was the need by the government party to get out of here because there were a whole series of questions surrounding the member for Sudbury East and her work as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. That pushed us into a whole series of agreements among the parties so that there was a decision that certain business would get done and then be sent out with dispatch into the legislative committees. One of those committees was the committee that looked into the so-called Shelley Martel affair.

There were also the deliberations with respect to the housing bill, and that was sent out to committee. There were other pieces of legislation that found their way to committee as well, and I needn't list them; only to suggest that there was a consent around the prosecution of the

business that was before the table because there was a real agenda there, and there was something that we as opposition people could look to to understand the full context of the business of this place. An agreement transpired, and there was a short and brief discussion among the people and the parties with respect to this same motion brought in December of last year.

But why this year am I standing to resist this motion, at least in the only way I can, which is to bring forward to the public some of the interesting information it needs to know if it is likewise to make an intelligent and reasoned decision on whether we should be sitting till midnight?

In this year we start at March 1992 and find that when we were scheduled by the standing orders—this very same book contains the standing orders and the Legislative Assembly Act, which governs the operations of this place. If you turn here now as it is, you will find that we should have returned to this place in March. But we were not allowed to come back in March because the Premier unilaterally decided that he would not come back because he didn't know what he was doing. That's how I read his press releases. Of course, the New Democrats would have read those press releases somewhat differently—slightly differently, some of them; some of them might not have been so charitable as I have just now been.

Not only did we not come back when we were scheduled, but it was one full month after we were scheduled to come to this place that the Premier came back and actually brought forward his throne speech, on a Monday. Tradition calls for us to come back on a Tuesday. When I advised the House leader, he said, "Oh gee, we haven't done this before," which isn't quite correct, because they've done it at least once before, but anyway, being new, that's okay and so what? We come back on a Monday instead of a Tuesday. We're all able to get here on Mondays, not like the old days when people had trouble coming in from way out in places where they don't have trains.

Come to think of it, I don't have any trains out in my part of the country any more. Maybe we should have sat on a Tuesday in any event. But that's another story: Transportation not being one of the high priorities of this government, we have no train, our roads are falling apart and I can tell you, Mr Speaker, there's a lot of concerns generated for us to discuss here.

[Applause]

Mr Elston: I think that was the member for Grey who was applauding me. No, it wasn't. Mr Speaker, I thought I had some applause from the member for Grey who is now, I think, auditioning to become the business agent for k.d. lang in Owen Sound. I'm not sure that's true, but we'll go back out and take a look at the press releases.

Mr Murdoch: Grey-Owen Sound.

Mr Elston: No, not Grey-Owen Sound yet; it's just Grey. Grey-Owen Sound is coming. It's coming, just like the next election; it's coming too.

Mr Speaker, I just wanted to bring your attention to this, because these standing orders really do govern the way we do business and there is an attempt to unilaterally change them.

Anyway, we came back a month later than we were supposed to, and when we came back that month later than we were supposed to, we lost very valuable days of business time. Do you know what else we lost, Mr Speaker? As much as we lost the business time of this House and the committees which meet while this House is in session—right now, I believe that if you went out there you would find that the justice committee is meeting, and several others—we lost the opportunity to examine the record of the Premier, the member for York South, and we lost the chance to examine the record of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the government House leader, and we lost the opportunity to examine the activities of that party animal, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I read her press release. Actually, I read the caption in the daily paper where the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations says, "I have always been a party animal and I'm bringing my party along with me." We lost the chance to examine the type of party the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations has been having over the intersession.

Valuable questions were there to be asked and we were shut out of asking them because the Premier unilaterally changed the calendar, because he didn't want to be here. I think some of the ministers love coming in here because they like to spar with the opposition; they like to sharpen their wit with the people across here. In fact, I think some of them love the opportunity because it gives them a chance to show they really do know more than the opposition people do, and that's understandable, but the Premier wouldn't let them come here. Really, he also didn't want to come here because he knew that as soon as we got to this place we would start asking questions about the Martel affair again, and that's embarrassing to him, so he shut us—

Hon Mr Pouliot: Mr Speaker, you don't name names. That's the member for Sudbury East. He knows that. He's been around here long enough.

The Deputy Speaker: You have no right to address the House. You should get up on a point of order.

1700

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, I think it's in order. In that interjection by the Minister of Transportation he talks about whether or not it's in order. It has been clearly reported in this House as the Martel affair, dealing with the business of that special committee that was struck to inquire into the activities of the Minister of Northern Affairs, the member for Sudbury East. I think common parlance and usage in the daily press has established that.

But anyway, let's not dwell on that so much as just to say that the reason I'm standing on this motion today is because I believe the government hasn't acted fairly with us and in fact cannot now suggest that we sit from 6 till 12 on all the days that are enumerated in the motion, because it hasn't really tried to do its business at all. But let me get back. That deals with the postponement of the business of getting back to this place for whatever reasons the Premier wants to enumerate.

What is the next concern that we have? We don't think the government has prosecuted its business as well because

the Premier himself has not been in this House. I must mark that while the Premier has not been here, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of ministers who have been unable to attend this place as well.

Put in context, that shows to me and to others who have watched this House with some degree of consistency over the past several years that there is a real sense that the New Democratic Party does not want this place to function the way it should. The Premier is not here, so he is not accountable. He can go off to all sorts of places during the sitting of this Legislative Assembly. We're not in session all the time. Why can't he plan to be places on Friday, Saturday and Sunday? Why can't he plan to be places during the intersession?

Not only were we called back here late, but then when we did come back the Premier took off and went for the grand tour all over the place. Some of the business, probably even all the business, was important, but it was not so important that it couldn't have been done at a different time.

There are some exceptions to that. The exceptions are all the constitutional debates and all the constitutional meetings which have been scheduled by Brian Mulroney and the rest of the people. Obviously our Premier must be there, although it's interesting to note that not many premiers have attended the same number of meetings Bob Rae has. They have sent their constitutional ministers or they have sent someone who is seen to represent their premiers while the premiers in other provinces stay home to conduct their business.

That, for me, says it all. This government has not desired to do its business in this House. Not only have they not been attending, but when they do go away from this House they make government announcements and policy statements to all and sundry, invite the press without any opposition people being present so that they can spin their tales, so that they can let everybody know what their side of the story is and unsuspectingly believe that the government is doing great things for them here in the province.

If they bring those statements into this Legislative Assembly, then the people would at least have another view of what is going on. We don't hold that we're always right, but we do hold that we have the right to an opinion and a view which should be put in the face of statements made by the government with respect to its policies. If we are prepared to be critical, sometimes we are prepared to be charitable, and in some cases—I can enumerate some—we have actually joined with the government in celebrating announcements here in this place.

But what the government wants to do is to shield itself from any sense of criticism at all by the opposition or it wants to shield itself from any share of the joint work that has been done in this place, because there are generally few exceptions in legislation where some member of the opposition benches hasn't suggested some piece of change in a legislative bill that's come through here that hasn't been accepted in one form or other.

Not often has it been acknowledged with great fanfare, but if we are never here to do the business of the House, then obviously the credit cannot be given to the opposition

members. That's another important consideration. That's why I believe they haven't fairly prosecuted the business of this place.

Mr Speaker, I will go back to repeat, just because you were not here, something I used as part of the point of order, at least the order I think you should take a look at when you leave this chamber, and that is again to talk about the number of pieces of legislation that have been brought to this place.

There were, according to the government House leader, some 121 pieces of legislation they wanted to introduce, and as you know and as I know, there isn't any place in this standing order or in the Legislative Assembly Act that forms part of this book a prevention of any sort to the movement of a bill for first reading.

I can do it as a private member. In my capacity as a private member, I can do it as a sponsor of a private bill. I could, if I were a minister of the crown, move it on behalf of the government. No place here is there a prevention against bringing every piece of legislation in front of this House.

The only thing that could stop its happening, as you well know, is that some way or other somebody would say no to its having been read for the first time and in fact there would be enough members opposed to it. Only then could the bill actually be prevented from being brought, but at no time is a member prevented from bringing his bills forward.

We may in fact see a change to that, because I understand that if the government House leader of the day has his way with this Legislative Assembly, he will be putting limitations on the number of bills that can be introduced in this place, to deal with an irritant that has been used with some effect by another opposition party, and in fact from time to time, I suspect, even by some of the New Democrats in their day in opposition as well.

Of the 121 bills, what have we got so far? We head up to June 4, when Bill 40, the Labour Relations and Employment Statute Law Amendment Act was introduced, with some 17 pieces of legislation of the 121 introduced for consideration here. That means to me there was very little desire to do anything in this place that would allow us to prosecute the regular business of the day. If you want to get the work done, you've got to bring it forward.

That is a little brief bit of information with respect to the bills; more you can read about in Hansard from just prior to my coming to this section of my speech, because I used it to guide you in your deliberations on whether or not this item should be in order at all or not.

I will move now, though, to consider another piece of information which shows that this government has not been following the traditional way of doing business in this House. What could that be? After we got back to this place, we were continually being yelled at about how many people could speak on the speech from the throne and we were kept to the letter of the law with respect to the throne speech debate. They wouldn't agree to deviate at all from the eight days that are allowed under the standing orders, even when they knew that we had a lot more

speakers who wished they could participate much more fully in the debate.

We stayed to the letter of the law with that one, but when it came time to deal with the budget debate, which allows us to have speakers speaking over a whole series of issues and items with respect to the budget, these people would not let us get by the presentations having been made to the budget speech by the Treasurer, by anyone other than one member from our party and one member from the Conservative Party.

That is unusual; it is irregular. We were shut down when it came to criticizing the budget because the government had decided that it wanted its tale to get to the people and not that of the opposition. Did we have four or five days of budget debate so that we could consistently pursue that issue which was critically important for the people of the province? Not at all. We in fact have been shut out from talking to the budget because it was the will of the government House leader that we would give in to all of his requests and demands with respect to his very contentious legislation, and then maybe he would think about letting us talk about the budget.

Well, let's talk about the budget for a moment. Is it important that we talk about the budget? I guess it is. Part of the reason for our being here is to put some criticism and some critical analysis around the statements being made by the government of the day. It is our routine nature to question the expenditures.

Today earlier, we saw the member for Etobicoke West stand in his place and question the Minister of Government Services with respect to some spending around some contracts. I say "some contracts" because there are a couple of contracts in question, and probably if the contract is signed, there will be an episode following today's and so on.

We also saw in this place a question raised with respect to the Minister of Transportation and the issue of a contract, the expenditure of some \$160,000 to one Wally Majesky, who has been for some time known to be at least sympathetic to the New Democratic Party.

1710

Those issues around the spending of money are critically important for us, and when you get told by the fellow from Nickel Belt, the member for Nickel Belt, the Treasurer, that he is spot on with respect to last year's estimates and projections and then it turns out that he is a couple of billion bucks over—then he comes forward in April of this year and says: "This is my new plan and I am holding the line with respect to budgetary initiatives. I am doing a great job for the people of Ontario. Look, it's only \$9.9 billion in deficit this year. That's only \$1 billion more than I told you it would be last year, but anyway, if you didn't believe me last year and you thought I was wrong, which I was, then you should believe me this year, because I'm not wrong this year. I've raised my sights a billion bucks or more."

In any other Parliament we have been given time as backbenchers to analyse the budget. In fact even one or two government people have stood in their places and tried to say what a good thing this budget really was in other

administrations. I remember the member for Carleton—I look to see what others, but he alone survives of a very dynamic group who went into the election of 1981 to lead—

Mr Sterling: 1977.

Mr Elston: No, no, you started in 1977, but I remember you from 1981. You went into the election of 1981.

But anyway, the member for Carleton, I can remember standing and promoting what a great thing the Tory budgets were. I remember him being less kind actually to the Liberal budgets, as I recall the member for Mississauga South being less kind to the budgets she's been able to see so far. There may be a day when she sees a much more sympathetic budget, I trust.

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): Yes, when we are the government.

Mr Elston: I'm not sure when our friend the Prime Minister of Canada is going to bring down his next budget, but I'm sure you'll be supporting the new Mazankowski when he brings that down.

Mrs Marland: No, not necessarily.

Mr Elston: You see, the amount of chatter I've engendered really makes my point. Everybody who is an elected official, whether you're at the municipal level, the provincial level or the federal level, is interested in how the budgets are formulated, because it affects everybody in this place. It affects all of our constituents because even the New Democrats are now taxing at a higher rate this year than last the people who are at or below the poverty line. We want to make that point and we haven't been allowed to make that point in this place as we would usually have been allowed, because the government has chosen to act much more in a different fashion.

What other reason is there that I ask that we not be required to sit from 6 until 12 each night? It is because there still remains a concern about how these people go about ordering their business.

I have what was described to us as the "must have" spring 1992 list. As you will know, as we get toward the end of each session, there is a sense of urgency with respect to some bills, a sense of less urgency with respect to others, and with some on the order paper there is, "Well, if we get to it, okay, and if not, don't worry about it," and with still others, "We don't care whether we ever get to that one or not."

We were given the "must have" list not that long ago, a couple of Thursdays ago. Included on it were the Power Corporation Amendment Act, Bill 118, which has been since voted on and passed in third reading; the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, which has not come forward; the Co-operative Corporations Amendment Act, which has not come forward; the Ontario Loan Act, Bill 16, which has not come forward; the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act, Bill 1, which has not come forward; the Mining Tax Amendment Act, Bill 12, which has not come forward; the Corporations Tax Amendment Act, Bill 11, which has not come forward; the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Amendment Act, Bill 123, which in fact has received third reading; the Game and

Fish Amendment Act, Bill 162, which has not come forward; the education act assessment, Bill 27, which has not come forward; the education act equity issues, Bill 21, which has not come forward; the Gaming Services Act, Bill 26, which has not come forward, and Sunday shopping, which now appears on their "must have" list, which was not even enumerated for our earlier discussions.

That was all of the legislation we were given a couple of weeks ago that had to have third reading. I find it really, really quite appalling that the people can make the case that they had so much work to do when they didn't even know what their "must have" list looked like before two weeks ago from this date.

Then on second reading the Ontario labour relations act, which is now Bill 40, pay equity, Bill 168, public service act, Bill 169, auto insurance, Bill 164, London annexation, which is still not in.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): Yes it is. Irene has finished it.

Mr Elston: There's some indication that the member for Middlesex has finished with respect to her deliberations on the legislation. I agree that the announcement by Mr Cooke last weekend probably put an end to a whole series of efforts, but we haven't seen the bill yet. We should have had a statement in this House, but the Minister of Municipal Affairs would not tell us what he really told the people. The Toronto Islands, Bill 171, was introduced some time ago and now we've got a companion piece with respect to the Toronto Islands, which incorporates some 22 changes to the government's own bill.

The Building Code Act, Bill 112, and the worker ownership, Bill 150, were all supposed to have received their second reading and gone out, but of course the House leader for the government didn't know that at the time of delivery of this that the worker ownership bill was already out in committee. In fact, in this House today the member for Lincoln stood in his place as chair of that committee, I guess, or representing the chair of the committee and actually brought it back to the House. It was reported to the House.

We were given this list just two weeks ago. It's not unusual to receive the list that late, but it is very unusual to have listed among the "must haves" several pieces of legislation that have not even been introduced prior to its formulation.

How can we do our work? How can we be accused of holding up the business of this House if the business of the House is not even before it, if the table officers haven't even had a chance to read the titles, if we have not even had an opportunity to take the legislation to our caucuses, indeed not even had a chance to take that legislation out of this place and to the individual groups in the community who believe they have something to say, either positive or negative, about the legislation that comes in front of us?

It's not usual to do business in that way. If the government would do its business in the usual fashion, then I would have no reason for standing here today to speak at length about this motion to have a sitting past 6 till 12 tonight, from 6 till 12 on Tuesday, from 6 till 12 on Wednesday and again on Thursday, the following Monday,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but the government doesn't do its work reasonably.

You would have thought when you looked at the "must have" list that there was some problem with a whole lot of the legislation that appears here. The government House leader knows, and the truth of the matter is, that we have provided to that gentleman on several days an indication that a good number of these statutes could be called and in fact could be dealt with on dispatch in a way which would allow us to get that work done, but we had advised him because of the issues in the public surrounding labour amendments and surrounding Sunday shopping that we wanted to talk about those bills.

You know something? We also wanted to talk about Bill 118, the Power Corporation Amendment Act, which gives new and interesting powers through that legislation to its chief interest, Ontario Hydro, and we want to talk about that. You know something, Mr Speaker? We want to talk about the Game and Fish Amendment Act because there are issues surrounding that legislation dealing with people who own dogs for the purpose of hunting that have to be clarified.

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): Deer farmers.

Mr Elston: My friend the member for Wellington tells me over the din of interest in this wonderful speech that in fact deer farmers are affected by the Game and Fish Amendment Act, and in fact they are. I see the member for Oxford nodding his head in agreement. I have deer farmers in my riding. I suspect he does too from the diligence with which that head is nodding in the affirmative. I suspect there's the odd one in Wellington and probably one in Grey. I know there are some in Huron because I've driven by them.

We want to talk about that bill. If the bills would be called, we could discuss them because there are issues of interest. I hesitate for a moment to raise this issue again because I had some exchanges which were not perhaps helpful earlier in the day with my colleague the member for Middlesex who has been working diligently with respect to the London annexation issue. But there is such a state of affairs in Middlesex and London, and interest surrounding that bill, that when it comes here we will want to discuss that piece of legislation.

1720

I cannot imagine for a moment that the member for Middlesex, having been unsuccessful in her first attempt to change the minister's mind, wouldn't want to put her case very publicly again so that at least she can put it on the record and then send it out to the municipal representatives who have been prompting her to do her work as a local member representing them. But we were told not only that it will not be introduced in time for a hearing in the last two weeks of this session, but that in fact it will come about much later.

Interjection.

Mr Elston: Is there a point of order, Mr Speaker? I'm sorry, Mr Speaker, I have but one option and that is to place my remarks on the record through you. If you are in other discussions, I should at least let you have those

discussions and I will resume when you are finished one way or another. If you declare it so, I shall take my seat and await your invitation to speak again.

Let me just say that there are bills here which could go quite quickly. If they had been called for us to do them, they would have been done and the passage of them would have been done. The complete work would have been finished and we could have had His Honour attend upon us to nod assent to the bills. They could have taken effect as they are required to do, but they were sheltered and shepherded away from this place by the government House leader so that he could make his case that something remained to be done, and that was in the absence of almost all 121 pieces of legislation that he put out in his press release as waiting for introduction to this House.

He has tried to shepherd the bills away from this place so he could make the case that the government could not do its work, as it is usually done, in a mutually suitable fashion at a time when our critics could have some time to go through the bills, analyse them and talk to the people in the public.

I regret very much that we're not doing our work here the way we used to do it. When a government House leader was informed that certain bills could be brought forward and dealt with expeditiously, then the government House leader of the day—

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: Just a point of information, Mr Speaker: One hour and 12 minutes' time has elapsed.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Bruce, please take the floor.

Mr Elston: The honourable gentleman from Cochrane South has indicated one hour and 12 minutes has elapsed. I can tell the honourable member that had he been here—and I know he was—and if he fully wanted to put the information on the record, he would have said that we started with a five-minute point of order to begin with. I was interrupted on several occasions when I had to sit down, including that time. I was interrupted in my statement just prior to that by his interjection to you, Mr Speaker. You being my only vehicle to Hansard, I awaited your pleasure.

I have a number of other things I would like to say about the way this place operates and does not operate. All I can say to you is that if the government had prosecuted its business reasonably and had asked us to go to bills like the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act—something, by the way, that I know the Conservatives have a bit of a concern about but which I know, from talking to the member for Parry Sound, their House leader, could have been dealt with in this House—it could have been passed—and Bill 166, the Co-operative Corporations Statute Law Amendment Act, about which I know there is an expert opinion in the Conservative Party—it could have been brought forward along with our critic and it could have been prosecuted here until the third reading was fully finished. We aren't dealing with events here as is normal. In

that case, I resist what some people would think was a normal motion under government notice of motion 8.

I have a whole series of other items which I would like to bring to your attention and one of them is this, effectively, as I move on from them not dealing with business with dispatch: It is, with respect, Mr Speaker, my opinion concerning night sittings. Unless there is some consent to go with dispatch through a series of items, you will find that the evening sitting has not ever been a productive one. I came from Huron-Bruce in the good old days, 1981 through 1985—actually till 1987 when the redistribution took effect—and from 1987 onward it has been from Bruce county that I have hailed. But from 1981 to 1985 there were night sittings. In fact, there were in the early days of 1985 as well, until we changed the order so that there would be no evening sittings.

Tuesdays and Thursdays we sat till 10:30 of the clock as the Speaker used to say. Sometimes even after 10:30 we'd have those so-called night shows—they really were night shows—when members could express their displeasure with respect to the answer of a minister. The interventions of dinners, meetings and other things sometimes caused the debate here in the evening sittings to be somewhat meandering. They lacked focus and often-times lacked the attendance of a very large number of the government members or the opposition members who should have been here.

What we are doing is going back to fully two weeks of this same sort of stuff in a context that lacks the agreement we had in December 1991. That does not auger very well. I think that if there was a genuine attempt made to order the business consensually, you would find there would be real progress, even in the daylight hours.

I apologize to my friend the member for Carleton. I'm just about ready to wind up now. I know he wants to put his record together so that the people can see it.

In the context of the regular operations of this place there would have been time set aside, and there is no time at this moment, for us to talk about the constitutional problems affecting us. The recent deliberations—

Interjections.

Mr Elston: Mr Speaker, the member for Wentworth North and the member for Cochrane South are both sitting there saying it's a waste of time. I'm telling you what it was like in the good old days when we had some consent around doing business. In the good old days, when there was a round in 1982 that dealt with bringing the Constitution back to this place, Mr Davis, then Premier, had allowed, prior to 1981's election and then following 1981's election, the opposition parties, the members of this place to speak to the constitutional issues.

During the course of these affairs, even though the Premier came here today in one of his irregular appearances in this place to talk about the Constitution, there has been no opportunity for us to put any in debate time around the constitutional issues. There were a couple of days when the committee report was brought forward from our own committee, well chaired and well worked by the member for Victoria-Haliburton, as he then was; he is now

a Deputy Chair of this place. The report is important to be dealt with. No time is given for us for in that regard.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: I'll only mention quite quickly the fact that we have not had time to debate the Constitution. It has not been allowed to us. We were not given time to debate the budget. The time has not been allowed to us, as would reasonably have been expected. That's why I'm resisting the way this motion is being brought now.

Finally, if this place were working as it used to work, there would be ample opportunity for us to address a whole series of issues that have been pushed off the shelf by the New Democratic Party. I am very much perplexed by not only the movement to bring in unilateral rule changes, about which, by the way, I have not spoken very much but which I would like to talk about at length.

Mr Speaker, I should like to bring to your attention that there is a real move in the public accounts committee to take off the table items which are usually open for the Chair and others in that committee to decide upon by the majority of those people, so that the opposition cannot do the business of the House.

My view is that there should be night sittings these last two weeks only if in fact there has been a real effort to do business in a reasonable fashion by this government. They have failed to do that, by not bringing us back on time; by not appearing as Premier and as ministers of the crown to be examined by us in question period 60 minutes each day; by not attending for the whole question period when they do come back; by not bringing forward legislation in a timely fashion so that we could examine it; by not being able to let us assess in committee the results of the report of the standing committee that dealt with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, the so-called Martel affair; by not letting us debate the budget; by not letting us prosecute a discussion around the Constitution; by not delivering to us answers to order paper questions, a thing about which I have not time to speak this afternoon, but there are very few replies. My colleague the member for Mississauga—North?—West stood earlier on a point of privilege.

1730

Mrs Marland: The member for Mississauga South is here.

Mr Elston: The member for Mississauga South indeed is here, and I see she is wearing those Mulroney glasses from time to time this afternoon. But my colleague the member for Mississauga West stood in his place earlier and raised a point of order because the government has taken far longer than 14 days even to acknowledge that his question was filed.

All of these things are such that the government of the day should not be allowed to prosecute this government motion under standing order 6(b). I believe wholeheartedly that this motion ought to be defeated when we have a chance to vote upon it.

Mr Speaker, with that, I leave it to you to consider not only that information but also my beginning remarks,

wherein I asked you whether or not the government had to exhibit clean hands in its prosecution of business in this House to take advantage of the standing orders which are there. My view, quite briefly, is that if they haven't demonstrated clean hands to the people of this province, to the public of this province, then they should be precluded from forcing us to do things at extended hours which they have not even tried to do in the real calendar as it is scheduled for us.

Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing me to participate. I now cede the floor to my friend from Carleton.

Mr Sterling: Under standing order 6 of the present rules—

Interjection: It's going to be boring.

Mr Sterling: It's pretty hard to be interesting when you're talking about these kinds of motions, but I'm going to try to make as much sense as is possible.

Under the standing orders which we have now, the government House leader is permitted to bring forward a motion to extend the hours of sitting during the last eight sessional days at the end of June, which we are now at, from the normal quitting time of 6 pm to 12 am. Quite frankly, I'm not sure why we have such a silly standing order presently within our standing orders of this Legislative Assembly. The whole idea of putting forward a standing order of this kind is to allow the government, in the last two weeks, to cram in the different business it has not been able to pass during the normal session.

If that's the case, instead of having a motion and two hours of debate this afternoon, which in fact is not going to accomplish anything, why would we not just give the government the right to have extended hours in the last two weeks? So be done, and we wouldn't have wasted this afternoon with regard to this whole debate and we could consider some government legislation. What I don't understand is that the government House leader has brought forward his suggestions for amendments to our standing orders, but instead of looking at practical things like the one I have just suggested, he's brought forward various different suggestions which are an attempt to just cut off the opposition from its ability to oppose and delay.

A lot of people who may watch this particular Legislative Assembly from time to time get upset that the opposition members stand up and make long speeches, drag things out etc. But when we're treated as we have been in the last two or three days with regard to the unilateral move by the House leader to bring forward significant changes to the rules, the public must understand that the opposition has no option but to stand up, give long, boring speeches which will go on and on and on until a deal can be struck—

Mr Elston: Come on, Norm; I wasn't that bad.

Mr Sterling: With the exception of the member for Bruce.

But we in the opposition have no option but to act like this. Therefore, what the House leader has done, in my view, is demean the institution in a larger way, because when people turn on their televisions they'll say, "There is

Sterling, the member for Carleton, standing up and speaking for half an hour," and after I sit down they'll say, "Well, he hasn't said a lot."

Mr Sorbara: Talk about pennies.

Mr Sterling: We could talk about something that makes sense, sure. What I'm trying to say is that by his actions the government House leader has virtually brought this place to a halt. We cannot deal with legislation. We cannot deal with resolutions which are of interest to members of this Legislature. The government House leader and Bob Rae must take the full impact of that decision by the government House leader.

The other thing I want to draw to your attention, Mr Speaker—because you and I personally were involved at the very first part of this Parliament in an election for the position of Speaker; you are really the Deputy Speaker, but when you sit in the chair you are the Speaker. We ran for election to be Speaker in this Legislature. I'll never forget that on October 1, when Bob Rae was swearing in his cabinet, they asked, "What about David Warner?" He was a former member, had some experience in this Legislature, and I think was accepted as a very capable member when he was in opposition. At that time the Premier said, "Mr Warner is going to be Speaker." The Premier realized he made a mistake after he said that, because the election of the Speaker is supposed to be a non-partisan event.

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): I believe he said he was supporting him.

Mr Sterling: Mr Hayes says the Premier said he was going to support Mr Warner for Speaker. I don't think there's much difference between saying he's going to be the Speaker and the Premier of a majority government saying he's going to support Mr Warner. The line is very fine.

But to get to the moral of the story, I'm not sure that Bob Rae, even though he has been a parliamentarian for a lot of his life, really understands how this place operates. I don't think Bob Rae understands, perhaps, that this is not a debating society. This is an institution which is supposed to pass laws; it's supposed to seek cooperation among political parties so they can get on with the business of the day. I think Bob Rae tipped his hand on October 1, 1990, when he said, and was quite out of line, that he was condoning or crowning David Warner as Speaker of this Legislature.

I'm going to assume that after Mr Rae said that all members forgot about what Mr Rae said and elected David Warner as the Speaker of this House on the merits of David Warner and that that was the way it was done. I have accepted Mr Warner as the duly elected Speaker of this Legislature, and I think we all had to accept that, in spite of what Bob Rae said on October 1.

1740

Another thing I'd like to bring into the debate is that about a month ago our House leader, Mr Eves, the member for Parry Sound, came to me and said: "Norm, will you head up for our caucus the negotiations surrounding changes in the standing orders?" The government House leader wants changes in the standing orders. The Liberals appointed Mr Mahoney to speak on their behalf. The New

Democratic Party decided that Mr Kimble, the member for Oxford, would do their bidding.

Well, Mr Speaker, I like the member for Oxford and I think he's a bright young fellow. But the member for Oxford has only had about a year and a half of experience in this place. The member for Oxford is not a member of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, which considers the rules of the House, and I thought it was quite inappropriate that Mr Kimble be the named person.

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): Sutherland.

Mr Sterling: Sorry, Mr Kimble Sutherland. I hope the member for Oxford will forgive me for using the wrong name.

Mr Speaker, I bring that to the fore because in the previous Parliament—and I am the only member left; I was the only member who was involved with the present standing orders and the negotiations regarding those standing orders—the New Democratic Party, in the last round, appointed Mr Breagh, who was a long-time serving member of the Legislature and who was the Chairman of the Legislative Assembly committee. They had appointed Mr Reycraft for the Liberal Party, and when Mr Breagh, myself and Mr Reycraft went into the negotiations, Mr Breagh and I quite frankly were able to sell Mr Reycraft a bit of a bill of goods.

Mr Reycraft is a very bright guy but he had been in the Legislature only a short period of time. When Mr Breagh and I would say, "Well, this is a good idea," it was not that Mr Reycraft was any less adept at understanding issues; he just didn't have the depth of experience which was required at that time to negotiate the change of rules.

If the government House leader is serious about changing the standing orders and wants to get on with it, I believe it should be he himself, perhaps the member for Bruce and the member for Parry Sound who sit at a table and negotiate what the changes to the standing orders might be. It is only with experienced members who have been here for a period of time that you're going to really drive a deal which will be able to be well understood by all.

I want to talk briefly about the need for longer sittings and the need for a change in our standing orders. The member for Bruce has already indicated what has happened with regard to some legislation. I'd like to just make a few more comments with regard to some of the other government legislation which we have had in front of this House.

You may remember, Mr Speaker, that last year we were considering Bill 115, the Retail Business Establishments Statute Law Amendment Act of 1991. This was introduced for first reading on June 4, 1991, about this time. What was the bill that we had to deal with all summer? The Retail Business Establishments Statute Law Amendment Act, in other words, the Sunday shopping law. That law was the one which outlined that if you had a tourist area you could open on Sundays. You could open on certain Sundays—I believe four Sundays around Christmas; I'm not certain of the logic about that particular part—etc.

You know that just recently Bob Rae stood in this Legislature and said this law no longer works. The bill was introduced June 4, 1991. We spent an afternoon debating the bill, or at least one afternoon; I can only tell from my records here. It may have been several afternoons of debating the Sunday shopping law. It was finally passed on second reading on June 17.

So we wasted three or four days on a law which was ill thought out by the government. The government is coming back to us and saying, "We don't have time for our agenda." We in the opposition are saying to the government, "You're not thinking about your agenda; you're not thinking about the laws that you're putting forward clearly enough before you bring them in here."

As a result of the bill passing June 17, it was then sent out to the standing committee on administration of justice, and it had hearings on July 29, 30, 31, August 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 28, 29, September 16, October 28 and 29, November 4, 5 and 18.

All those hearings, all of that legislative time that you and I as members of this Legislature put out of our time schedule to consider the Sunday shopping law has gone for naught. We wasted all of that time, not only in this Legislative Assembly but also in the standing committee on administration of justice. We wasted all of that time because they could not put their act together and bring forward a Sunday shopping law which made any sense.

Now they want to cut us off because they haven't got time to consider their agenda. They haven't got time to bring forward their important laws, their important bills. What can we do but look back and say, are these guys real? Do they know what they're doing? Can we trust any laws that they bring forward?

I want to talk about another piece of legislation as well which I have been involved in, and that is Bill 150. Bill 150 is dealing with the new investment proposals by this government to create a tool for labour unions and employees to buy out their own company and also to act as a capital resource base to invest in other companies. This bill was debated on first reading November 6, and its second reading was on December 18, 1991. It was then sent out to one of the committees of this Legislature on which I sit. We were to consider it and have people come in front of the committee to let us know what they thought about Bill 150, public hearings, on or about February 23 of this year.

Three days before the hearing we get a call from the committee clerk which tells members of the committee that the hearings aren't going to start on Monday. This is the Thursday before, four days before, that we find out the committee hearings are not going to start, and the reason they aren't going to start is because the government has a tremendous number of amendments to make to Bill 150.

In other words, the original bill was garbage. They had to rethink the whole idea of Bill 150, because between the time they introduced it on November 6 and about the middle of February, they had second thoughts about most of the bill.

Bill 150 has 51 sections in it. Mr Speaker, do you want to know how many amendments there were to an act which has 51 sections? There were 49 amendments—to a

bill which has 51 sections. In other words, if you average one amendment for one section, they got 49 wrong.

1750

Interjections.

Mrs Marland: The housing bill was bigger than that.

Mr Sterling: Some of our members say that's better than normal. I understand from the member for Mississauga South that in terms of the rent control bill, Bill 121, there were 249 amendments to that piece of legislation. There were about 135 sections in that, so not only did they have more amendments than sections in the bill; they had almost twice as many amendments in regard to that particular piece of legislation.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): What a government. It listens to the people.

Mr Sterling: One of the members across the way says, "That's a good government; they're listening to the people," and you know, I do appreciate a government that does listen to the people and does make some amendments during the committee process. I think that is healthy. I have also, as you know, been involved with the advocacy legislation, and we're having public hearings this afternoon down in the standing committee on administration of justice, which I can't attend because I've got to be up here in the Legislature debating this silly motion which is present under the standing orders. I think the standing orders should be abolished on allowing this debate to go on, but as a member of the opposition, the government House leader forces me into a position of having to carry on during this particular debate.

The advocacy legislation and the Consent to Treatment Act, the amendments to the Power of Attorney Act: 199 amendments, and some of those amendments were major changes in the structure of those bills. If we add up the number of experiences that I have had—Sunday shopping law, numerous days of this Legislature wasted—I don't know how many millions of dollars this government has blown on its previous Sunday retail business—

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: They blew millions of bucks, wasted money because they are not clear-thinking. They have no idea—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: After this happens two or three or four times, members of the Legislature start to lose confidence in how much vetting and how much work has really gone into this legislation. Have the government and the people representing the government really thought about what they're putting forward, or is it really off the top of their heads? Is it off the wall?

Is Bill 40, dealing with changes to the Ontario labour relations law, off the top of their heads? Is that off of the top of Bob White's head? Does it have any relevance to reality? Do they know what they're doing to business? Do they know what they're doing to investment? Do they know whether or not the legislation they put forward actually

carries out the intent of what they think they're doing? I have found in the committees of this Legislature and in this Legislature that while they espouse certain principles and ideas, when you get down and you read the legislation it has nothing to do with what they have said is their intention. I think that's because they're sloppy.

Mr Stockwell: "Sloppy" is kind.

Mr Sterling: "Sloppy" may be kind. I don't think that when their ministers are sitting around the cabinet table and making these decisions anybody goes back and looks at the piece of legislation before they introduce it. I think they rely on the bureaucrats to put forward the legislation. Nobody every cross-examines the bureaucrats and says: "What does this section mean? What does that section mean? How are you going to implement that?" Maybe it's because they're not practical. Maybe they have no idea about how these laws really impact on the citizens of Ontario.

When we were in government we used to have a committee called the legislative committee of cabinet. When we used to go through a bill, the bureaucrats would have to come into the room, the policymakers would have to come into the room and the committee would say to the bureaucrats: "Okay, this is Bill 150. The cabinet has decided this. How does that intent match up with the words in the bill?" When the bureaucrat would answer back, "Well, the intent of cabinet was this and here's what the words are," we used to say to the bureaucrat: "Is that practical? Are you going to be able to do that? How does it affect the man on the street? Is he going to be able to go to the government or is he going to be able to utilize this particular piece of legislation in order to have the effect that it was intended to do?"

On many occasions, on more occasions than not, the bureaucrats would have to go back out of that room and come in with another piece of legislation which made more sense, which didn't leave the government open to the unmitigated attack this government has allowed itself to be

open to. On just about every piece of legislation we see in front of this House we come to the conclusion immediately that it's ill thought out and that the technical language has nothing to do with the intent the ministers stand up and talk about in this House. We are losing more and more confidence in each and every piece of legislation that's brought to the fore.

This is important with regard to the discussion, because this motion is going to keep us here from 6 o'clock in the evening to 12 o'clock every night. Being normal human beings, we would like to be back in our constituencies during the months of July and August so that we could talk with our constituents and take a week or two off for a holiday during the summer period, when many members want to share that with their families.

We're going to talk from 6 o'clock to 12 o'clock about bills that have been ill conceived, that ministers haven't even read themselves. Bob Rae was asked a question on Bill 150 by Mr Phillips, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, the other day. Bob Rae didn't even know what was in his own Bill 150, which is supposed to be a cornerstone in the investment plank of his party. It was in the throne speech. Bob Rae didn't even know what was in Bill 150. He didn't know there were two parts to Bill 150. He didn't know that part of the bill dealt with employee buyouts and the other part dealt with investments. He didn't have any idea. If Bob Rae doesn't know what is in his own legislation, how the heck does he expect the public to know what is in his legislation?

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I'm not finished. Can we not stay longer?

The Deputy Speaker: It being 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 1800.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
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London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
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Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
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Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
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St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
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Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
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Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
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York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Tuesday 16 June 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Mardi 16 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 16 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TAX EXEMPTION

Mr Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa East): Last week the standing committee on regulations and private bills approved Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa. This legislation allows Ottawa's new triple A baseball stadium to be exempt from local municipal taxes. The exemption is based on the fact that the stadium is already being built with substantial municipal and provincial funding. Adding municipal taxes to the stadium's operating costs would just tax back this same financial assistance.

I'm glad the committee unanimously approved the legislation, and I note that the Minister of Municipal Affairs, who is also government House leader, is supporting the legislation as well. Since he has acknowledged the importance of the bill, I would like to call upon the government House leader to move quickly to schedule the bill for third reading. I would also like to point out to the government that this kind of private legislation to provide property tax exemptions is awkward, bureaucratic and slow.

The minister said he supports Bill Pr27 because it represents a partnership. If the minister is serious about encouraging this kind of partnership, the government should bring forward general legislation providing municipalities the authority to directly implement their own tax exemptions. This would allow municipalities to respond quickly to the local projects they wish to support and would save the lengthy time and money involved in enacting this special legislation through the Legislature.

LEGAL FEES

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement concerns this government's move to penalize senior citizens, home buyers and women by increasing the cost of several civil court transactions. These fee increases became effective June 8 and were brought in by regulation without going through the legislative process. They hit hardest in the three areas where average people are most likely to use a lawyer: real estate and mortgage transactions; wills and estates; divorces and family matters.

A few examples of this backdoor tax hike, which was done with little notice and no debate, include a tripling of the fee for probating a will. Under the previous fee structure, people were charged \$5 for every \$1,000 of real estate. That has now changed to \$5 per \$1,000 for the first \$50,000 and \$15 per \$1,000 for amounts over \$50,000, with no maximum. For an estate worth \$500,000, the probate fee goes to \$7,000 from \$2,500. This new probate fee amounts to a double whammy for families with assets they want to pass on to succeeding generations, because the

provincial government is also considering imposing a new inheritance tax.

For an uncontested divorce, the cost of issuing a petition, serving it and setting it down has increased to \$320 from \$190. The cost of filing a claim has jumped to \$125 from \$75 and the cost to defend a claim has increased to \$70 from \$40. If you want to search a title from the previous owner, it goes to \$11 from \$4. Disgraceful backdoor politics.

ROGERS CABLE TV

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): In my 90-second time allotment I want to speak about Rogers Cable TV, and in particular the Oshawa branch managed by Mr Paul Coleman and Mr Terry McWade.

Virtually every day Rogers Cable TV provides free studio space and technical assistance to organizations and even to MPPs who need to communicate their message to the Rogers audience. In addition, Rogers Cantel Inc frequently brings high technology to good causes by making its cellular telephones and paging services available free of charge to charitable organizations.

Rogers companies employ 5,900 workers and all are keenly aware of their responsibility to the nation and to the communities where these employees live. In 1991 Rogers supported the United Way in 29 cities as well as 22 hospitals, 28 universities, 16 theatres and 11 symphony orchestras. They also assisted the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, Junior Achievement of Canada, the Olympic Trust of Canada and the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

I would like to thank Rogers Cable TV for its support in particular to me, for broadcasting and producing my own weekly TV program, Talking it Over With Gord, which is seen across the region of Durham.

GOVERNMENT MEDIA POLICY

Mr Hans Daigeler (Nepean): During my visit to Sarnia last week, I learned that cabinet members have been ordered to call their area newspapers about the alleged negative reporting on the NDP's labour law reforms.

Here's my mock rendition of Marion Boyd's recent telephone conversation with southwestern newspapers: "Hello, this is the Minister of Community and Social Services. The NDP cabinet is being hard done by your newspaper. Now listen carefully. This is the script I want you to use on our labour law reform project."

At least for one paper this blatant NDP porridge was just too much to stomach. Here is what the Sarnia Observer wrote last Wednesday:

"Because Ms Boyd was only interested in reading the government's prepared statement on the labour law changes and attacking the media in general, she had to be coaxed into answering a few questions from an Observer reporter. And she became angry with the reporter who tried to interrupt her reading of the prepared statement to question her on specific points."

Surely even government backbenchers will be embarrassed by this clumsy attempt to polish the government's image on labour law reforms. As the Sarnia Observer said, "Rather than attacking the media and spoonfeeding Ontarians propaganda, the government should take a close, hard look at the legislation which has prompted this controversy."

1340

LANDFILL SITES

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): Today I have introduced a resolution which will, I hope, make the Minister of the Environment wake up and smell the stench of garbage.

The New Democratic Party has sacrificed communities in the greater Toronto area for the future home of three 20-year dumps. Abusing its majority position, the NDP members, gleefully and with smiles on their faces, passed Bill 143 against the calls for more impact studies on the affected communities.

My resolution today is the first step in trying to turn a serious wrong into a right. The resolution calls for amendments to Bill 143 to allow for a more democratic process to take place in the selection of landfill sites. There are three reasons why:

First, the decision to prevent regions from looking outside the greater Toronto area for a landfill site is contrary to the intent of the Environmental Assessment Act, section 5(3). Second, the government has promised each person in Ontario the right to a full environmental assessment, including the right to review all the options pertaining to the disposal of waste. Finally, the government has failed to fully examine the impact of a landfill site on the regions in the greater Toronto area.

Bill 143 must be challenged and this time the people must be heard. Maybe now the smiles on the new dump party backbenchers will be wiped off their faces. No dumps please.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): I would like to share an experience with the honourable members of this Legislature. Last Friday I paid a visit to the striking workers of the Toronto Star. I picketed with them actually. Yes, I picketed with the workers who belong to the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild.

I am very glad to have had a firsthand view of what the feelings are among the workers out there on the picket line. As you can well imagine, tension is high and emotions run easily out of control. The reason: replacement workers, known to some as scab workers. The use of replacement workers not only creates the bitterness I witnessed; it lengthens strikes, it makes the bargaining process less effective and can sometimes lead to violence.

The experience reminded me of how very proud I am that our government is attempting to put an end to this situation and situations like this one. The proposed amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act are very much needed to build a stronger, more competitive Ontario. We need to reduce conflict and confrontation in labour-management relations.

The amendments, honourable members, especially limiting the use of replacement workers, will do just that.

LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): The leader of the Conservative Party, Mike Harris, has been calling himself a tax fighter. However, the record shows that he is not a tax fighter and in fact has been a major tax booster.

From 1981 to 1984, Mike Harris supported the Conservative government in 16 tax increases totalling more than \$1 billion. What is extraordinary about these tax increases is that they came during a recession. Yes, the Tories burdened us with higher taxes during the early 1980s, a period when we were least able to afford it.

Part of the reason we are so overtaxed in this province stems from the major tax hikes of the Conservative government. This is the same Tory government that left us with an annual \$2.6-billion deficit when it was turfed out in 1985. This same man is trying to tell the people of the province that he's our champion, fighting tax increases on our behalf. Spare us the rhetoric.

Mike Harris supported increases in personal income tax, OHIP premiums, beer taxes, fuel taxes, tobacco taxes, the retail sales tax and the corporate income tax. He even supported a 5% surcharge on Ontario personal income tax, and today he has the gall to call himself a tax fighter. The leader of the Conservatives has perpetrated a sham. Far from being the tax fighter he makes himself out to be, Mike Harris is a tax hiker.

UNIVERSITY CROWN FOUNDATIONS

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I was pleased to learn this morning that the Minister of Colleges and Universities announced he will be introducing legislation this afternoon that will allow the government to establish crown foundations.

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, I have been a strong advocate for crown foundations and as recently as June 1 I asked the minister to introduce this legislation as soon as possible. Universities, their students and faculty are facing many challenges. There is a shortage of faculty, buildings are deteriorating, classrooms are overcrowded and facilities are outdated.

Ontario's universities make a major contribution to this province's and the country's competitiveness. They play a vital role in the development of highly skilled human resources. Without the ongoing resources to produce a highly skilled workforce and advanced research facilities, Ontario and Canada will be unable to compete in today's global market.

Crown foundations will increase the incentive for the private sector to make unique and outstanding charitable contributions to Ontario universities. As this bill proceeds through the legislative process, I look forward to working with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to ensure the concerns of the universities are properly dealt with and that the implementation of the crown foundations is efficient and effective.

I am certain the ministry does not want to create yet another layer of bureaucracy. Officials from the University of Northern British Columbia informed us that its board of directors are all voluntary positions.

On a final note, I would like to congratulate the universities for their hard work in supporting the minister in his dedication to this matter.

INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Mr George Dadamo (Windsor-Sandwich): It gives me great pleasure to stand in the House today and announce the upcoming celebration of the 1992 International Freedom Festival for the city of Windsor. The Windsor-Detroit International Freedom Festival is North America's largest international festival. As well, the festival is slated for June 24 through July 5 in Windsor and Detroit.

Nineteen ninety-two will be a special year for the freedom festival as Canada celebrates its 125th birthday and Windsor celebrates its centennial. One of the highlights this year will be the Canada Day parade, led by the grand marshal, Windsorite Chris Lori, who represented Canada at the winter Olympics in Albertville in bob-sledding.

The International Freedom Festival offers a wide variety of events for the whole family to enjoy, and best of all it is free. The annual freedom antique car show and parade will be held featuring the finest vintage cars from Canada and the United States. That is next Sunday. Finally, on July 1, it is expected that 1.4 million people will line the shores of Windsor and Detroit to view a spectacular fireworks display.

Let me reiterate by saying the International Freedom Festival is the world's largest two-nation birthday party and it runs from June 24 to July 5 in Windsor. Your invitation to see Windsor at its proudest moment awaits you.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

RACE RELATIONS

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I am pleased to report to the Legislature and the people of Ontario my government's positive response to Stephen Lewis's recommendations on race relations.

Mr Lewis is in the gallery. I want to thank him very much for his work and for his report. The extent of his consultations was truly remarkable given the very short time available. He met with many individuals and groups, sought out forums to sit down with young people to hear their concerns and ideas for change and talked to representatives of the police and to countless others.

I would like to add my thanks to all those people from school trustees to black community leaders and police chiefs who took the time to meet Mr Lewis, but I particularly thank those young Ontarians who opened their minds and hearts to Stephen Lewis for us. I am also grateful to the team of people who worked with Mr Lewis on this challenging project.

Stephen Lewis presents the government and the province with a compelling call to action against racism, to respond to the frustrations and the fears of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters in visible minority communities and to

build on our shared belief in fairness so that Ontario stands proudly for racial equality.

Prejudice and discrimination have no place in Ontario. To that end, the government agrees we must move now on a comprehensive range of initiatives. The government must address the elements Mr Lewis identified in his report: jobs, the criminal justice system, education, community development and institutional change. It is a tall order, but together we can succeed.

Mr Lewis's action plan fits within and enhances Ontario's agenda for social justice and economic renewal. He has set out some tough deadlines. I am determined to work with all MPPs and the community to respond, and respond now. We have already announced a significant increase in our summer jobs for youth programs. Accepting the recommendations of Zanana Akande, my parliamentary assistant, Ontario now has the most extensive summer youth employment program in its history.

I share the Minister of Citizenship's pride that she will introduce the Employment Equity Act before the Legislature adjourns for the summer. Mr Lewis has identified employment equity as a fundamental "affirmation of opportunity and access" for visible minorities in Ontario. The legislation should be firmly in place by early 1993, after a full debate in the House and discussion in the province.

As the second largest employer in the province, the government accepts the duty and responsibility to provide leadership for all Ontario employers. The Chairman of Management Board and I have made it clear that there must be measurable progress on employment equity in the Ontario public service.

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Another important measure for equality in employment identified by Mr Lewis is to ensure access to trades and professions for those Ontarians trained outside Canada. The Minister of Citizenship will, by October 1, 1992, present a strategy to facilitate access for such individuals to work in their chosen fields in Ontario.

We must also ensure that appointments to the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board meet the government's equity objectives. The Minister of Colleges and Universities wrote the OTAB labour market partners on June 11, emphasizing, "Government requires that both business and labour nominees reflect the diversity of Ontario, with appropriate representation of equity groups." This message will be reinforced at the OTAB round table this week.

By breaking down barriers for individuals with training and experience from outside Canada, and by making sure that visible minorities take their place at the table establishing Ontario's centrepiece for labour market training, we are taking important steps forward for equality and for competitiveness.

Fairness and the perception of fairness in the criminal justice system are key to harmonious race relations. Mr Lewis has set out a demanding timetable. His suggestions encompass the completion of unfinished business, speeding up ongoing initiatives and making existing institutions more responsive and more effective. I take optimism from the initial positive responses to Mr Lewis's recommendations from many different sections of the community.

My colleague the Solicitor General will be releasing the draft regulation on safety and the use of force this afternoon, as promised last month. He intends to have the new rules for police accountability, training and the use of alternatives to lethal force in place by September 1, 1992.

Today I am pleased to announce that Clare Lewis, at the request of the Solicitor General, has agreed to reconstitute the Race Relations and Policing Task Force, as recommended by Mr Lewis. While significant achievements have been made on over 60% of the task force's recommendations, including employment equity for police services, it is important to complete the work now. That work will start soon.

The Solicitor General and the Attorney General will be working closely with the Minister of Citizenship to respond this summer and fall to the other criminal justice recommendations, including monitoring and race relations audits, the mandate of the police complaints commissioner and the very significant matter of enhancing police training.

The special investigations unit has already been given new resources by this government. We are committed to improving the SIU's organization and ensuring its independence in every respect. A new reporting mechanism will be established that will remove it from within the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

We are working now to find the most effective method to examine those parts of the criminal justice system which have been overlooked in past inquiries. As police and community members alike acknowledge, our scrutiny must go beyond policing to an evaluation of the courts and the corrections system. The cabinet will consider the most practical and effective options right away and will have an answer to this recommendation of Mr Lewis's before the end of the summer. Whatever we do must be focused and oriented to action. We don't need another study simply for the sake of a study.

If we are to truly tackle racism, education from elementary school to post-secondary institutions must enhance and sustain opportunity and equality for all of Ontario's children and youth. I was particularly struck by Mr Lewis's observation that a report prepared by students themselves for the Toronto Board of Education revealed, "It's as if virtually nothing had changed for visible minority kids in the school system over the last ten years," and I share the young people's frustration at the slow pace of change.

Mr Lewis has challenged the Minister of Education and the Minister of Colleges and Universities with an ambitious agenda, which touches on everything from what is taught to who is doing the teaching to who is accountable. My parliamentary assistant the member for St Andrew-St Patrick is continuing her work on curriculum revision, together with the Minister of Education, and she's determined to proceed quickly.

Proposals to attract and enrol more visible minority candidates in the province's faculties of education, received by both ministers last month, will move ahead. Working with the province's faculties of education, we want to see a difference in future years' enrolment.

The Minister of Education has already announced changes to strengthen our commitment to racial equality in education. The key is to see that what gets recommended in reports to ministers and boards of education starts really happening in the classroom, and that is the frustration that's been expressed by so many.

Mr Lewis's call for an enhanced role for the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat and for a stronger bond between the government and racial minority communities makes good sense. On these questions in particular, Mr Lewis notes that he is more concerned about implementing the goals of his recommendations than adherence to exact wording. The objective of these recommendations is to ensure that the Anti-Racism Secretariat is an effective, powerful voice and to provide a new focus for community access to, and accountability in, cabinet.

In 30 days, Mr Speaker, Mr Lewis identified many other issues he placed under the heading of community development: questions around housing, culture, health and social services, minority businesses, youth and empowerment. Our challenge is to translate these concerns into an agenda which can yield results. The Minister of Citizenship and the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat will work with representatives of minority communities to do that. This will clearly require new resources, and those who have served with cabinet will know what I mean when I say that. They will also know what I mean when I say that yesterday I asked treasury board to find these resources and to clearly identify the offsets, since I want to clearly state to the House whatever we do has to be done within our current means.

I have asked the Minister of Citizenship and the Attorney General to take the lead responsibility for implementing the government's overall response to Mr Lewis's report. They will be supported by their colleagues the Solicitor General, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Colleges and Universities and my parliamentary assistant the member for St Andrew-St Patrick. We've established a steering committee of deputy ministers, cochaired by the deputy secretary to cabinet and the director of the Anti-Racism Secretariat. The ministers will make a progress report to the Legislature early in the fall sitting.

I agree with Mr Lewis that Ontario has an opportunity to make a real breakthrough. At its best, Ontario has always reflected a belief in fairness and in social and economic justice. Mr Speaker, I say through you, to all the people of Ontario, to black families, to families of all colours, of all creeds and most importantly to the young people of this province, we can, we must and we will act to make a difference and build a better Ontario.

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I'm pleased to inform members of this House that I rise today to announce the release of a draft regulation under the Police Services Act on safety and the use of force by police officers. I am fulfilling the commitment I made last month to release a draft regulation for public consultation. At that time I identified three issues around which the government would be seeking input on the regulation: (1) an

accountability mechanism to monitor the use of force by police, (2) comprehensive training for officers to ensure we address concerns regarding public and officer safety, and (3) alternatives to the use of lethal force.

The government's objectives are public and officer safety. I am confident that the draft regulation we are releasing today will help achieve that objective by minimizing instances where police must resort to the use of lethal force.

The use of force by police is an issue of concern to everyone in Ontario. A key goal of community policing is greater public confidence and trust in the police. This regulation will enhance that confidence and that trust.

I wish as well to acknowledge the work done by Stephen Lewis. In his report to the Premier, he emphasized the vital and urgent need for these amendments under the act. In Mr Lewis's words, "There seems to be an important consensus developing that police officers need much clearer guidelines about the use of force."

A balance is required between the legally authorized use of force by police and the need for police to clearly understand their public accountability for the use of their special authority.

In the area of police accountability, we are proposing provisions, including reporting requirements which clearly outline the circumstances in which an officer may use lethal force. Under these accountability mechanisms, officers are required to submit a report each time a firearm is drawn or discharged and whenever less-than-lethal weapons are used or other physical techniques are employed that result in injury to an individual.

1400

This accountability is not intended to place constraints on the police. I believe that accountability requirements such as the use of force reporting will be valuable tools that police services can use to monitor trends, identify problems and, more important, develop solutions through new policies and improved training. The key goal is greater officer and public safety.

Use of force training is the second focus of this draft regulation. It is essential to the development of proficient and responsible police officers. Currently, training is largely directed towards the technical care and use of firearms. The proposed regulation will place greater emphasis on judgement, theory, safety, legal requirements and practical proficiency.

The draft regulation also includes a requirement for upgraded recruitment training and annual requalification in the use of all force, including the use of a police firearm. Officers unable to meet the practical proficiency standard would be prohibited from carrying a firearm.

The third area that the proposed regulation addresses is the use of less-than-lethal force options. We must make available to police alternatives to lethal force to help reduce the possibility of preventable tragedies. All classes of less-than-lethal weapons used by police will be subject to ministry approval, standards and guidelines for their use.

The government believes that the regulation will provide clear direction to police officers on the use of force and sufficient means to perform their duties very effec-

tively. The regulation I am introducing today will be more effective as well once the federal government acts on its promise and revises subsection 25(4) of the Criminal Code, the so-called "fleeing felon" provision. I have indicated in communications to both the federal Minister of Justice and my counterpart the federal Solicitor General that the current provision is far too broad and urgently requires amendment.

I am also announcing today proposed amendments to the police code of conduct regulations under the Police Services Act. A key principle of the act is the need for sensitivity to the pluralistic, multiracial and multicultural nature and character of our Ontario. The amendments make discriminatory behaviour an offence subject to internal discipline. These measures will ensure that police continue to serve the needs of all members of society.

I have also established a new committee on public and officer safety to review the proposed regulations and make recommendations on possible amendments. In addition, I welcome suggestions and comments from interested members of the public and the police on these particular matters. A position paper will be made available through my ministry.

The people of Ontario expect and deserve a high level of public safety and security. I believe these regulations will contribute substantially to that objective.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Statements by ministers? Responses. Official opposition.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Before we get into statement time, might I ask, because of the nature of the very important material we've just been given by both the Premier and the Solicitor General, that we be allowed to have just a little more time to reply to these statements?

The Speaker: That would take unanimous agreement. Agreed?

Interjections: Agreed.

The Speaker: Agreed.

RESPONSES

RACE RELATIONS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): We appreciate the opportunity to have a few extra moments to be able to respond to what we believe is a most important report and therefore a significant set of statements being made in the House today.

I don't wish to carp, although I do have one lingering regret, that this report, which we had anticipated and in fact welcomed, had to be tabled by the government at a time when circumstances made it impossible for the Premier to make his statement and therefore delayed our ability to respond until this point in time. But having said that, we do welcome the report.

I want to begin my response by suggesting that the commitment of our party, and in fact the record of our party in government in responding to these very important issues of race relations and, in this instance most particularly, race relations in policing, I think is quite clear and is acknowledged in the report. Mr Lewis makes very clear that the Clare Lewis Race Relations and Policing Task

Force represented a major breakthrough and was significant in beginning to respond to these very serious issues. While we were in government we had committed to the implementation of some 56 of the 57 recommendations in the Clare Lewis report, including the implementation of employment equity for police departments, the establishment of the special investigations unit and the provision of race relations for police officers.

Having said that, it is quite clear that much more needs to be done and there is no doubt that implementation needs to proceed. The report confirms the important next steps that must be taken. We do want to reiterate that we need not just study committees and not just new reports, but we need decisive action to ensure that institutions like our Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Anti-Racism Secretariat and in fact our justice system, do work more effectively.

There are many issues we could respond to in this report. I want to touch on one that is not mentioned in the statement or in the report which gives me some cause for concern, and that seems to be the absence of any reference to the continued emphasis on community policing. I believe it is universally recognized that the initiative of focusing on community policing has been one of the most significant, positive steps in bringing about a positive relationship between police and people in communities.

We recognize there are important resource questions involved in community policing, but it does concern us that the government, in making the statement today and in Mr Lewis tabling this report, in not recognizing that community policing must continue to be a focus, seems to be stepping back from this very important initiative. We would ask the government not to put this on a back burner and to recognize that it does need to be an important focus and it does need to be a focus for the government looking at redirection and prioritization of its resources.

I would note that there is a reference in the Premier's statement today to a further statement on access to trades and professions, a strategy report or status report perhaps, by October 1992 on this issue of access to trades and professions. I can't help but remind the government that this is a report which was commissioned by the previous government, again on an issue we felt was of great significance. That report, as we've noted on a number of different occasions, has been sitting on a shelf somewhere for approximately two years.

We do urge the government to proceed to look at the recommendations of the access to trades and professions report, because without practical support, the goals of employment equity which are so fundamentally important to the broader goals Mr Lewis has identified in his report simply cannot be achieved.

I would like to note that the employment equity initiatives this government has long promised are now to be introduced, according to the Premier's statement, in this spring session. We would have to acknowledge we're pleased that there is finally to be some action where for such a long time there seemed to have been mostly words and statements of intent.

I do have a concern I can't help but note, however, that we hope the work has actually been done to make sure that when this legislation is introduced, it is good, effective, workable legislation. It was only last week that the minister responsible for bringing in this legislation indicated publicly that only parts of the legislation had been taken to cabinet, although she did hope to be able to introduce it in the spring session. It was only last week that in the government House leader's indication of the legislation that would be before the House this spring there was no indication at all that employment equity legislation would be forthcoming.

The government's record in introducing complex legislation has not always been stellar. We note, for example, the more than 200 amendments in place for its advocacy and consent-to-treatment legislation. This legislation has been long awaited; it has been long promised. It's absolutely essential that it be legislation which is carefully developed and then very carefully considered.

Having noted those concerns, we do look forward to continued discussion and to very active pursuit of these critical issues. I would ask our critic for the Solicitor General to respond to other issues in the Premier's statement as well as to the statement of the Solicitor General.

1410

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): I too would like to commend Mr Stephen Lewis for his report. I have looked forward to this day more than any other day in the House because I know how important it is not only to the one sector of the community but to all citizens of Ontario. Mr Lewis has brought a lot of credibility to this issue. It is unfortunate that we have to seek an individual to bring credibility to an issue that affects us all, but having that individual within our community, I think it is appropriate that the Premier appointed such an individual.

I've stated from the beginning that it was not a difficult task Mr Lewis had; it was an easy task. All he had to do was go back to all the reports that were written before and say to the government of the day, "Do it." The last time I made a comment in the House, I was criticized by other members that it was rather partisan; not members in this House but outside, in the federal area. The names need not be mentioned. But it is important: If all citizens of this community, of this country, don't feel safe and feel part of this community, there is no way we will have a peaceful environment.

I am concerned about some of the areas in here, although Mr Lewis had made it, as he said, in an anecdotal manner. I've heard all these emotions put forward and feel the pain of that community, but the pain of that community is not only the pain of the black community. I think what the black community was saying to us all is that all members of this society will feel the pain of racism: those who give it and those who receive it. I'm glad Mr Lewis brought that forward.

I was disappointed in certain areas. I was extremely disappointed that he did not touch on the Ontario Human Rights Commission, an extremely important area, although he did say that he's leaving that to the Cornish report when

it comes in, but I warned him, at the cost of his credibility, to emphasize how important it is, because we don't need all this employment equity, we don't need a lot of new laws. What we need is enforcement. Further than that, we need more than enforcement. We need it to be done immediately, and that is the aspect of where we wanted to go. We welcome any other suggestions he might give.

When I read that report—and I want to say this as a citizen of Canada and of Ontario—I almost felt that certain people in our society are like colonials, that somehow you report to the Premier and the government that all these citizens in that sector of the community need is this and they'll be all right. Again, as I emphasized, they did not ask for that for themselves. There are members of other communities, the Chinese and the South Asian community, who have appealed to me and said, "We hope the government of the day does not see this in that certain local sector." I am confident that the Premier, whom I know very well and who is quite concerned about all this, does not see it that way himself.

There are other areas of it. I will say to the Premier that if a cabinet committee is formed, I have concern if it's within the Ministry of Citizenship. The Attorney General would be much more appropriate. I want it to be seen that it's not a matter of citizenship, of minorities who want a cabinet committee on race relations; it's all people, those in the white community, those in the Asian community and those in the black community, so that they themselves have access to that power.

There's many areas I would like to have made some comment on. I would like to remind him that he made no mention in that report of the visible minority youth project report that was submitted in October 1989. It had precise and direct things to do that are extremely helpful. I know Mr Lewis, and I sat with him and said what an onerous job he had, to hear from all people in such a short time; quite a difficult task. However, I remind the Premier that if he could take another look at that, it would be quite helpful. I will send this over to him. With the number of reports he has, he may already have seen that, but I'll make sure it comes before him immediately.

I was glad to hear that employment equity is coming forward. I know the government of the day is already—your Bill 172, sir, is sitting there just waiting to be introduced. When that comes forward, I know there will be a lively debate. I urge members on the government side to read it. It's a good document and it needs a lively debate. We welcome that. All citizens, Mr Premier, will be better off when we have a better race relations environment in this province.

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Mr Alvin Curling (Scarborough North): Now, for the few moments I have, I would like to direct the other part to the Solicitor General, who made his statement today. I'm extremely disappointed, Mr Solicitor General, that of the number of recommendations that were placed here today, you came forward with only one, and that's the use of force in regulation. Then you wrap yourself around Mr Lewis's recommendations and say, "We welcome that

because he tells us to do that." We have been telling you over here for the last two years to do that.

Furthermore, I gather Mr Clare Lewis will be heading another task force on what it would be. He has already told us what to do. You know, this is fairly disappointing. Why put it back in his hands again? We are legislators. He said to us, "Do it." Now we have implemented almost 56 of the 57 recommendations. I'd like you, sir, to say to us which one you have not done since your government has been in power for two years. Tell us what you have done, because then if you have not done those, we are here, over on this side, prepared to help you to implement those.

I'm extremely disappointed on many other parts. One of the most important recommendations contains the solution of a transfer of the special investigations unit from the Solicitor General to the Attorney General. It is painful really that the SIU has not been able to fulfil its mandate in providing independent civil investigation into police actions.

The Solicitor General has done nothing to attempt to restore the SIU's credibility. It is extremely important that we have that and people look up to the SIU. We have complained about that in the House, constantly have asked questions, and sometimes we have been ridiculed because you felt we didn't know what we were saying.

Of course we welcome your announcement and we hope that many more announcements will be made in regard to the concerns we have. Again I just want to say that we are a great country, a great province and we have an opportunity to do just that without undertaking the partisan political attitude towards that. We would have a better society for all of that.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I know the member for Leeds-Grenville will want to respond briefly to the statement by the Solicitor General and I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Premier's statement and, by way of response, deal with some of the points raised by Stephen Lewis in his letter dated June 9, 1992, addressed "Dear Bob."

First I want to make the point that no party in this House has the monopoly on concern for race relations and no party has the monopoly on concern for community safety.

Second, no members of this House want to see their fellow human beings denied the opportunity to meet their full potential. In that regard, I must say that I do not support those who advocate denying or suppressing one individual's opportunity in the interests of advancing another individual's opportunity. My caucus believes that every citizen must have an opportunity for advancement. However, we must be very careful that one individual's rights are not suppressed to advance the rights of another individual.

Third, as a member from northern Ontario with a name like Harris, I do not pretend to speak for the black community, for the Chinese community, for the Italian community or for many other communities in this province. However, as a legislator, as leader of my party, as a citizen of this very diverse province, I must and I do want to understand

the concerns and the aspirations of all citizens and indeed of all groups within our society.

I know all citizens of Ontario want quality education for their children, economic opportunity for themselves and security for their person and their property. All citizens of this province, of all races and backgrounds, have a responsibility to understand the concerns of their fellow Ontarians. As a community we must work together to achieve these common goals.

Fourth, no racial group or ethnic group in society is immune from extremism from within. No ethnic group, race or creed represented in our diverse province does not have within it some of the ugly elements of racism. We must all be vigilant against racism in our communities, in our places of employment and in our social gatherings.

1420

Ontario and Canada are great places to live in, to work in, to raise a family in. It is all of us and our predecessors who have made it great and it is all of us who must guard against that which might destroy that greatness. If we face the problems that exist with honest and open commitment, we will continue to live up to that greatness.

This brings me to a very sensitive point that I raised with Mr Lewis when we met during the preparation of his letter to the Premier. We need a greater honesty in discussing the issue of racism and race relations. I pointed out to Mr Lewis that some have argued for the suppression of statistics with respect to crime in Ontario but many of these same people advocate the gathering of statistics for employment equity purposes.

I notice a passing reference to "the vexing question of racially based statistical data" on page 14 of Mr Lewis's letter. We can't keep tiptoeing around this issue.

The Globe and Mail editorial put it this way: "What then are the other causes of these problems? We do not know and we will never know as long as people like Mr Lewis put guilty self-flagellation over intellectual rigour and musty preconceptions over the search for facts."

I received a copy of a letter to the Premier this morning from Dr Ubale, Ontario's first race relations commissioner, a man who has dealt with this issue for many years. Dr Ubale puts it this way: "Unfortunately the fear of being misunderstood has frozen honest and frank debate in the area of race relations too long." He says: "It is time to stop making politically correct statements on this sensitive issue. What is politically correct may not be socially desirable." Those are Dr Ubale's comments.

Many have expressed to me the view that the problems of some of the new immigrant black communities in Toronto are as much a function of poverty, of lack of family and community support, as they are of racism. This makes the problem no less serious. Indeed these socioeconomic circumstances make the problems with racism that much more difficult to deal with. However, we must recognize all of the root causes, what they are and what makes the problems worse, before we can properly develop the solutions.

I've heard concern expressed that many of these problems will not be solved without the support and the leadership within the black community.

There are good stories to be told. I know the Black Business and Professional Association has worked hard to promote black role models. I have personal experience with the John Brooks Community Foundation and Scholarship Fund. Sheldon Taylor's black history exhibit is an effort that should be more widely acknowledged. There are good people doing good work within the black community. We should point to their success.

There are many identifiable members of Ontario society who I believe the Premier could have called upon other than Stephen Lewis. The Honourable Lincoln Alexander for one comes to mind.

I have met with representatives of the black educators. Education is an important building block to give all children the best opportunity to succeed in society. The Toronto Board of Education has done much on the race relations front. We can do more but teachers cannot do it all alone. They need the support of the parents and of the community.

I have advocated dozens of times in this House and elsewhere for breakfast programs for children in school. No matter what a child's skin colour, she or he can't learn if her or his stomach is empty.

With respect to policing, I and my party are very supportive of the police and of the very difficult job that we ask them to do. We must deal with racism wherever it is. But we must also remember the role of the police is to protect our citizens and our property. It is a difficult job. Our police must often make split-second decisions in very tense situations. They need adequate training and sensitivity to deal with those situations.

We should not belittle, though, the difficulties faced by the police. Improved education and training are important we agree, but an understanding of the situations we ask them to face every day is also necessary. Elevating the rhetoric and printing posters with cross-hairs of a gun scope not only does nothing to improve the situation, it makes it next to impossible for others to improve the situation. Indeed these actions are counterproductive and they are inciteful.

All citizens should remember the police are hired by us and they are entrusted by us with the role of protecting life and property. Youth or any citizen engaged in criminal activity must realize that society will hold you accountable for your actions. The police have been given a job to do. It is up to us to support them with training and skill and, more important perhaps, with understanding.

Finally, let me return to the point made in the Globe and Mail editorial on June 11. Stephen's letter to Bob "oozes...concern and good intentions. What it altogether lacks is the spirit of inquiry."

I think we need greater courage and greater honesty in this House and in this province to be brought into this discussion. I do not believe the Stephen Lewis letter has provided that. I don't think we'll advance the issue quickly or successfully until we openly discuss the problems.

I believe solutions can be found. I know the citizens of Ontario are charitable people. If we present the facts and work together, we can present constructive solutions. Contrary to the Premier's statement today, we are not yet there

with all the facts and with all the information to be able to present constructive solutions.

POLICE USE OF FORCE

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): I have some brief comments in response to the Solicitor General. As my leader indicated, I don't think any of us have any difficulty with the concept of additional training in the use of force, but I want to remind the Solicitor General that the police college is virtually shut down as a result of lack of funding from this government, so it's difficult to see where his priorities lie in that regard.

I must say that some of the initiatives he's announced dealing with use of force by police are disturbing. That concerns me and I think it concerns policemen and policewomen across this province, as all of us are going to be hearing in the next days and weeks. I believe this initiative and others that we've heard reflect the NDP's focus, which is entirely on equality of opportunity and treatment of visible minorities, while at the same time ignoring for the most part issues of public safety, police morale and individual responsibility.

I think if you talk to a cop on the beat—regrettably Mr Lewis and, I believe, the Solicitor General have never spent a tour of duty with officers facing some of the challenges they do on a daily basis in Metropolitan Toronto. It might be enlightening for them to take the time to do just that. In the Metro area—we can take a look at Ontario—we have homicides up 18% in 1991, attempted murders up 163% and robberies up 44%, a record number of homicides in Metro Toronto last year, and it looks like we're going to surpass that number in 1992. To say this is handcuffing police I think is too mild. What we're essentially doing is to have more bureaucrats policing the police than police watching crooks.

We talked about the distorted priorities of this government and the previous government. I mentioned this in the past. We have the Solicitor General's ministry staff up 67% over the past number of years, while the OPP uniformed force was only increased by 9%. The OPP budget is less than 1% of total expenditures of this government. The provincial share of municipal policing costs has fallen from 12% under the last Conservative government to 6% under the current government.

Certainly an issue I raised yesterday and an issue that the Progressive Conservative Party has raised many other times in this House is that public safety is very low on this government's agenda. Considerations that this NDP government chooses to ignore are (1) the need to give all citizens in society, and particular in Metro Toronto, the confidence that they can walk the streets without fear, (2) that police will be provided with the statutory and moral support to protect public safety, and (3), which is related to the first one, that all citizens of the province, including the youth and visible minority youth, must be given the clear and unequivocal message that they are responsible for their actions, that there is no justification for criminal activity and that police and the courts will be given a mandate to deal with problems when they occur.

Regrettably, those are two matters this government has chosen to ignore, but I want to assure you and the members of this House, policemen and policewomen across this province and citizens concerned about public safety issues, that we will continue to raise them in this House and press the government on a regular basis.

1430

ORAL QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC POLICY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. As preface to my question, I want to acknowledge what I think would be the unanimous agreement of everybody in this House that Ontario is indeed a great place in which to live and work. We do, after all, boast a health care system that remains the envy of the world and we have a highly trained workforce, but the reality is that despite the fact Ontario is a great place to live, this government is making it an absolutely impossible place in which to invest. Because of that, businesses continue to close, people continue to lose their jobs, employees are seeking greener pastures and employers are seeking greener pastures south of the border.

The examples continue. Last Friday, Champion Spark Plug in Windsor announced it was consolidating production at one of its United States facilities. Meanwhile, Washington Mills of Niagara Falls said it had chosen Niagara Falls, New York, as the site for its new expansion and its 42 jobs.

The government keeps saying its labour law reforms are not the only reason business is leaving this province and we agree. Double-digit hydro rate increases, obscene deficits, high gasoline taxes and billion-dollar tax grabs certainly play their most significant part in undermining our competitiveness.

I ask the Premier to tell this House if his first priority is indeed keeping people working and getting people back to work and that he will guarantee that every initiative, reform and decision he makes will be judged by that key factor. Is this Premier prepared to make that kind of commitment to the people of Ontario, or is he content to just watch while more and more of our businesses and industries continue to drift south of the border?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Of course, as I've said on many occasions, job creation is the top priority of the government and I listened with care to the comments by the Leader of the Opposition. One of them stood out for me. In all the litany of things she's laying at our door, the one I love hearing from the Liberals is double-digit hydro rate increases. Hydro rate increases are high for one reason and one reason alone: the Darlington nuclear station, which was started by the Tories, completed by the Liberals and has now to be paid for by the ratepayers and taxpayers of Ontario, thanks to the action you took. Everybody in the world knows it. Everybody knows it.

Mrs McLeod: While I might welcome a discussion about Ontario Hydro and the direction it's taken under this government, I'm not going to be drawn into that in my

response to the Premier's response to my question, because—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mrs McLeod: Let me return to the central focus of the question, which is that companies like Champion Spark Plug and Washington Mills have simply done their homework. They look at the total picture and they take a long, hard look at our competitive position and simply find it wanting.

I think the Premier needs to look at the statistics that come from his own Ministry of Labour and begin to address the reality that during the first five months of 1992, 73 manufacturers announced permanent layoffs affecting 50 or more people. Those layoffs alone—and that doesn't even include the Washington Mills layoff of last Friday which only affected 42 people—sent 13,688 people to the unemployment lines, a 30% increase this year over last.

Things are not getting better in Ontario and I ask how the Premier can continue to tell us he's committed to improving the workplace, when his government's policies are shrinking Ontario's competitive position and its workplace month by month.

Hon Mr Rae: There's no question that across North America there's a very tough process that's been going on. It's been accelerated by free trade. It's been accelerated by the impact of the recession. Everyone knows that. What I think should also be known is that the leader of the Liberal Party is bringing forward a very selective set of facts.

Why wouldn't she have described the reasons Chrysler has decided to put so much substantial investment in Brampton? Why would she not be telling us why Ford has made its decision, which it announced just a couple of months ago, with respect to its enormous, nearly \$2-billion investment? Why wouldn't she have chosen to refer to the fact that the First City Trust company is closing its head office in Vancouver and moving 112 to 115 jobs to Toronto, or that Crayola has chosen its Lindsay plant over American plants in Kansas and Pennsylvania to supply the US Market, or that Mitel is phasing out its offshore phone production and consolidating telephone manufacturing at its Kanata plant?

Why wouldn't she have quoted from Robert Graham, the chairman and CEO of Inter-City Products Corp, which relocated from Red Bud, Illinois, to Brantford, with the addition of 300 jobs in the city of Brantford, who said this: "I do not subscribe to the belief that the days are over for manufacturing plants in Canada. There is no reason why a skilled, adaptable labour force in Canada cannot be a competitive, cost-effective operation, and I feel we've proved it. We can find other locations where real estate costs, taxes and labour rates are lower, but if a plant can offset that by productivity, you have to look at the bottom line." That's what Mr Graham said, not, as far as I'm aware, a supporter of the New Democratic Party or, yet, a member.

The Speaker: Would the Premier complete his response please.

Hon Mr Rae: I can tell the member she has to be balanced in her questions and in her approach. She's coming

dangerously close to simply running the province down when the evidence is that when the competition is fair, we can meet it and we can beat it.

Mrs McLeod: When you talk about selective use of statistics, the Premier, in citing his examples to counter examples of those that are leaving, simply fails to add up the numbers and fails to address the fact that the bottom line is that the layoffs represent a 30% increase this year over last, a reality that's undeniable.

If the Premier were truly concerned about the way in which his government's policies can begin to turn around that overall loss of jobs that continues, he would be prepared to look at some very positive and concrete proposals. That's why, in this final supplementary, rather than continue to exchange examples, I would like to make a specific and concrete proposal to the Premier to address perhaps one of the most critical components of Ontario's overall competitiveness, and that's gasoline and diesel taxes.

We would like to suggest to the Premier that he look at a proposal to bring about a summer rollback in provincial gas and diesel taxes. The proposal would bring much-needed relief to Ontario manufacturers, clearly through lower transportation charges. Second, it would be a huge boost to Ontario's tourism industry, which is an industry in which 95,000 people in the restaurant and hospitality sector alone have lost their jobs since September 1990. This would be a seasonal proposal. It would be an attempt to give a positive signal to counteract what are so many negative signals at a time when this particular industry is most in need of a positive signal.

Clearly the government would say there would be an immediate loss of revenue. But in fact if they were to do a cost-benefit analysis, they might find there would be an actual offset to that in the increased number of tourists coming to visit Ontario this summer. Would the Premier at least consider this specific, concrete proposal, do the cost-benefit analysis and suggest that his Treasurer look at implementing this measure for July and August?

Hon Mr Rae: Any suggestion made in good faith by any member of the House will obviously be considered by me. I'm sure the leader will appreciate that in the absence of the Treasurer I can't give you a snap response. I can only say to the honourable member that I will look forward to her comments on the increased size of the deficit, which would be an inevitable byproduct of the kind of recommendation she's making. No doubt she'll be outside defending the fact that we have to borrow more money in order to pay for tax decreases.

The Speaker: New question.

Mrs McLeod: Just by way of information, I very clearly said to the Premier that in making the proposal they would do the cost-benefit analysis to see whether there might be some offsetting revenue by virtue of increasing tourism, a step the government refuses to take.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mrs McLeod: My second question is also for the Premier on a quite different issue.

Interjections.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): What a smart-aleck you are over there. You wouldn't answer my questions yesterday. You didn't have the guts to answer them. You don't want to be seen as the man who is blocking democracy in this House.

The Speaker: Order, the member for St Catharines. Interjections.

The Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My second question is for the Premier and it refers back to a question I asked, in his absence last week, of the Minister of the Environment. In that question I was quoting the Premier at an earlier date, December 11, 1990, when in response to a question asked by the leader of the third party, he stated that "there are absolutely no plans of any kind by this government to use the Rouge Valley as a dump, none at all."

The Premier on that date continued by saying: "I do not know how I can be any clearer...I was asked specifically...whether I abided by the statements that I had made in the past with respect to there not being a dump in the Rouge Valley. That is the statement that I am making today: no dump in the Rouge."

On June 7, 1992, while touring the Rouge River Valley, he said, "We're determined to see there will be no dump in the park."

Once again the public trust has been betrayed by this government. I would ask the Premier why he and his government have retreated so completely from the promises they made in respect to dump sites in the Rouge Valley, and why he is now resorting to distinctions which he didn't feel were necessary to make when he was making those campaign promises.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'll refer the question to the Minister of the Environment.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order, the member for St Catharines.

Interjections.

The Speaker: This House stands recessed for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1443.

1454

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker, very briefly: I've stood in this place before and talked to you. I understand what your answer will be before I put the point of order under standing order 16, which is the one you have just used to recess this House for some 10 minutes.

The question was put in good faith. The Premier knows exactly what the response is going to be. He knew what the response would be when he assumed the answer to my leader's last supplementary on her first series of questions.

He knew it would involve making this House spin into a little more chaos.

Mr Speaker, I would ask you on a point of order, to restore order to this place, if you would request the Premier to reconsider his referral of that question by my leader so that he answers for his own statements and does not pass off to the Minister of the Environment.

I ask therefore for unanimous consent for the Premier to reconsider his previous referral so that we can get on with answering in question period.

The Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Interjections: No.

The Speaker: No. The question was directed to the Premier. As is prescribed in the rules, he and any other member of the cabinet have the opportunity to redirect, and in fact that's what he did. It was redirected to the Minister of the Environment and she now has an opportunity to respond if she so chooses.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): In response to the question from the Leader of the Opposition, I'd like to respond—

Interjections.

The Speaker: This House stands recessed for 10 minutes.

The House recessed at 1456.

1506

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I ask, through you, Mr Speaker, to the government House leader, if the Premier intends to be here for more questions.

The Speaker: That's not a point of order. Does the government House leader wish to respond? Minister.

Hon Mrs Grier: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In response to the Leader of the Opposition's question, perhaps I can refer her to the revised approach and criteria put out by the Interim Waste Authority.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the minister take her seat, please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: To the member for Ottawa West, temperate language would assist us greatly, especially today. Minister.

Hon Mrs Grier: Mr Speaker, the answer to the question is simply no.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Mr Speaker, apparently the Minister of the Environment is not prepared to defend her policies under Bill 143 and the decisions that she must be held accountable for.

Just let me remind the minister of how popular her initiative to dump Metro's garbage into York region is. The other night 1,300 citizens of Schomberg gathered together in the Schomberg arena, determined to fight her policies; the other night a group of people met in King City to begin to organize and put together the framework of an organization

to fight her determination to dump Metro's garbage in the King-Vaughan area; 1,300 people met last night in East Gwillimbury, determined to defeat the government on its policies relating to Metro's garbage; 1,500 people met in Markham to fight the dumping of garbage in the Rouge, and very shortly, on Friday night a large gathering will take place in the Pine Orchard area to fight this decision.

At every single one of these meetings we hear the same thing: that the error was made was by the Minister of the Environment herself when she determined, without any consultation, without any studies and without any consideration whatever of alternatives that she, by fiat and by Bill 143, would have Metro's garbage dumped in York region.

I ask the minister once again to explain to the members of this Legislature, to the citizens of York region and the citizens of the province on what basis she personally determined that Metropolitan Toronto's garbage should be dumped someplace in York region? What is the basis for that decision and how are we to justify that to the people of York region?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area): The basis for that decision, which is a decision of the government and subsequently a decision of this Legislature in Bill 143, is that there is currently an agreement between Metro and York region with respect to the—

Interjection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mrs Grier: —disposal of their waste. That agreement is to the effect that Metro is responsible—

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): You abrogated that agreement. You expanded the site without agreement. The deal doesn't exist.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mrs Grier: —for the disposal of York's waste until the year 2003.

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West—

Hon Mrs Grier: Metro has begun to look for a disposal site for both—

Interjection.

The Speaker: I ask the member for Etobicoke West to come to order.

Hon Mrs Grier: Metro had begun, under the previous government, to look for a landfill site all across the province to deal with waste of both Metro and York. We continued that arrangement but confined the search to Metro and York. That's the answer.

The Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): It's no surprise that the Premier refers an answer to the Minister of the Environment, the same Premier—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order. I must caution the member for Etobicoke West that if he refuses to come to order he will be the cause of disorder and he may be named.

Mr McClelland: It is no wonder that the Premier refers the question to the Minister of the Environment. This is the same Premier who called the former Premier a liar on the campaign trail. Premier Rae has no courage to stand in his place and address statements that come flying right back in his face, that he now contradicts through his Minister of the Environment. He does not have the courage to stand here and respond to my leader when faced with the truth of the matter—

The Speaker: Your supplementary?

Mr McClelland: —that he is not living up to his campaign promises.

My supplementary goes to the Minister of the Environment when the Premier lacks the courage to stand here and respond. The supplementary question is this, and it continues with the saga of landfill sites: In August 1990 the Premier and the Minister of the Environment travelled to Whitevale where they made another promise that they probably aren't prepared to keep either. They promised the people of Whitevale they would not become host to a landfill site. In November 1990 the Minister of the Environment backed off her campaign promise.

You are not prepared to keep the campaign promise you made in 1990, Minister. The people of the village of Whitevale believed you. They're appalled to find that now not one site but seven potential landfill sites surround their community. Ironically last night that community designated itself as a historical district while the townspeople are fighting off your Ruth Grier memorial dump site seven.

Why was it that in 1990 during the campaign, when in all your piety and self-righteousness you stood with the Premier and said you would not allow one site, that the people of Whitevale are now confronted with seven potential sites? One wasn't good enough in 1990; now you've given them seven. How do you reconcile that, Minister?

Hon Mrs Grier: If the member is going to accuse us of breaking promises, he might at least get the promises right. The promise was that no new landfill sites would be opened without an environmental assessment. That promise is being kept. It's not a promise that I expect to be popular but it is going to resolve the issue that has been unresolved for 10 years.

Interjections.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Stockwell: My question is to the Minister of the Environment and minister responsible for the greater Toronto area. Let's be very clear about what your promise was. The last environmental assessment review that took place, took place in Halton and took some 17 years to approve. When you had your Premier standing on the landfill sites all across this province, including the ones you expanded in Peel and York, the promise was a full environmental assessment. That would take at least 15 to 17 years. Madam Minister, it's clear that you have broken your promises. What is it you would like us to tell the citizens of this province about landfill sites, the length of time they will take and what your new promise is to them today?

Hon Mrs Grier: I would suggest that the member refer people to the documents the Interim Waste Authority has put out and to the time schedule the Interim Waste Authority is going to be following, and if he wishes to expand on that discussion, to the administrative improvements to the Environmental Assessment Act that I released and discussed in this House a month or so ago.

Mr Stockwell: So now we know full well that the promises they made in the election are out the window, null and void, no longer in practice. All the promises you made to the citizens across this province don't mean a thing now. The question, Minister, is this: Your Premier stood on that day in August and accused the then Premier, Mr Peterson, of lying five times in a press conference. My question would be better put to the Premier but he decided to leave, so I will ask the minister: Do you still think Mr Peterson is a liar, and if so, what does that make you?

Hon Mrs Grier: Mr Speaker, I don't think that's an appropriate question for me to answer.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr Stockwell: As a representative of Metro Toronto, I know this party in the last campaign—

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): Yeah, he supported the EPA.

The Speaker: The member for Durham West.

Mr Stockwell: I've got to keep listening to this member for Durham West. You know, you're going to be like a bad smell; you won't be here in three years. That's the best thing that I can—

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask the member for Durham West to come to order. It would be most helpful if all members could perhaps impose a moratorium on interjections, and at the same time if those who are asking questions would direct their questions to the Chair.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): Ever see Peterson walk out?

The Speaker: I ask the member for Ottawa West to come to order.

Mr Stockwell: Obviously since the last election the party in power played very fast and loose with the truth, in my opinion. I answered many questions on the environment and landfill sites at doorsteps in Etobicoke. As a member of Metropolitan Toronto council I heard from some of those members across the floor. When the Rouge Valley was on the table—and I admit that as a member of Metro I supported the Rouge being on the table because it was the only fair process we could undertake to ensure a full environmental hearing—the party across the floor at that time, including certain members across the floor, suggested they were unreasonable and not safe environmental standards. Today we find exactly the opposite.

The question must be put to the minister. Minister, when you were making these suggestions about full environmental assessments, when you were making the prom-

ises to the people of Peel and when you were making the promises to the people of York, at no time did you suggest at that time that shipping garbage to the United States was bad. You continued to allow it. You never told them that Kirkland Lake was off the table.

My question, Minister, is this: When can we expect an answer from your government with respect to the promises you made last election, that got your people elected and that you're breaking haphazardly today? Why did you say it? Your Premier runs out of the House today; you don't respond. Why did you say it if you don't mean to defend it?

1520

Hon Mrs Grier: I thought I had been defending the environmental policy of this government in our commitment to an environmental assessment of new landfill sites ever since I removed the exemption given by the previous government from the Environmental Assessment Act to a site in Whitevale. That's the position of the previous government. That's the position we disagreed with and it's precisely the course of action we are embarked upon.

We know it is not popular with those people who are going to have a landfill site in their community, but our policy is to deal with waste management, put waste reduction first and have a fair and open environmental assessment. That's what people voted for and that's what they're getting.

INTERVENOR FUNDING

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The battle cry has been issued and communities in the greater Toronto area are outraged at what your government and your crown authority, the Interim Waste Authority, is doing to their neighbourhoods and their communities. The new credo that we're hearing now that NDP stands for is "No Dumps Please"; or the other one I kind of like is "Not Dumps—People." But anyway, we're dealing with the crisis that you have created and I want to know if there's some way in which you could help to solve it.

The fact of the matter is that the Interim Waste Authority has a sum of money, and you would know better than I how much it's got in its budget. Is it \$19 million to begin to implement the procedures that are now before it? What I'd like to ask you is, through intervenor funding, is there any kind of funding available to the people who want to fight these landfill sites or potential landfill sites in their communities?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I wish there were no need for landfill sites but the fact is that the people of the greater Toronto area create a great deal of waste and, instead of shipping it into somebody else's community to dispose of, what the Interim Waste Authority was established to do is to find sites within the greater Toronto area. In response to the specifics of the member's question: Yes, of course there will be intervenor funding available, as there always is under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Mr Cousens: Not once did the minister mention the Interim Waste Authority in her answer, and that's what I

was asking about. Here we have the Interim Waste Authority coming into all these communities around the greater Toronto area and selecting sites and saying, "Well, this is a possible site." I'll tell you that anyone who lives near those sites and received a letter better be frightened, because any one of those sites could be the great selection.

The lottery is going to be made and the lottery has already started to be shown, because the people in those neighbourhoods' property values are going down. There won't be new construction going on in the area surrounding that—not just within the kilometre from it but in the larger area—so there is a tremendous need for support for those communities.

I re-ask the question: Is there anything your ministry, your government, can do to help those people respond to the Interim Waste Authority and the efforts it is making to change our communities for ever and ever?

Hon Mrs Grier: It's precisely because of the uncertainty that is created when candidate landfill sites are identified within the GTA or in any other part of the province that Bill 143, which established the Interim Waste Authority, spells out the very fast schedule that the Interim Waste Authority will be following to move from the long list of sites to the shorter list of sites to the preferred site by this time next year.

It is the ability of the Interim Waste Authority to move through the process much more quickly than has happened in the past, which I think the member was very critical of in our debate on Bill 143, but it is the policy of this government that has allowed the Interim Waste Authority to have those powers.

Mr Cousens: It's a terrible crisis of credibility, a crisis that is hitting everyone who surrounds this great Metropolitan area, because what is happening now in these communities is a sense of total frustration, not only with you as a government, but with the system and bureaucracy you've created around them. You've created a system that makes it next to impossible for them to react or to openly express their views. All the best lawyers are now tied up with the Interim Waste Authority, and for them to try to come along and get some help is nigh on impossible.

When we come along and look at the leaked cabinet document of your priorities, it says, "Exclude from future consideration number 76, intervenor funding." Not only does your government inflict a landfill site on each of the regions around the greater Toronto area and the communities and effectively silence their voices through underhanded legislation such as trying to deny public consultation, ignoring valid amendments to Bill 143, abusing the majority that you have had from September 6 to avoid the truth of your own environmental assessment promises that there would be a full environmental assessment—that's why people in York are so angry. Bob Rae, when he was Leader of the Opposition, came up there beside Keele Valley and said that there will be a full environmental assessment.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): And your supplementary?

Mr Cousens: What has happened to that promise? That's why we're upset and angry. But I now ask you,

Madam Minister, will you direct the Environmental Assessment Board to release the funds to help those who want to fight the decisions of your board?

Hon Mrs Grier: I don't direct the Environmental Assessment Board. The Environmental Assessment Board determines the level of intervenor funding when we get to that point in the process and the Interim Waste Authority pays for the intervenor funding. This member sat through all the committee and all the debate on Bill 143. I think it's unfortunate that he didn't understand—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Has the minister concluded?

Hon Mrs Grier: Yes.

RED HILL CREEK EXPRESSWAY

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Speaking about credibility, I have a question for my good friend the Minister of Transportation. The minister knows that his party, the New Democratic Party, is going to be holding its annual meeting this coming weekend in Hamilton at the Copps Coliseum.

The Minister of Transportation is not a popular person in Hamilton. In fact he's only slightly more popular than his predecessor, who simply killed the Red Hill Creek Expressway a year ago last December for some unknown reason which has yet to be explained to the Parliament or the people of Hamilton. The minister and his government are so unpopular in Hamilton that literally hundreds and hundreds of people are going to be organizing and demonstrating at 7:30 on Friday night in front of the city hall in Hamilton to protest the cancellation of the Red Hill Creek Expressway.

My question to the minister is rather simple. What is he going to say to the hundreds and hundreds of people who will be out there protesting on Friday night? What is he going to say to the hundreds and hundreds of construction workers who are unemployed right now and could be working on building that expressway? What is the minister going to say about the \$100 million in forgone investment that has been cancelled because of his government's—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Would the member conclude his questions, please.

Mr Sorbara: —cancellation of the Red Hill Creek Expressway? What is he going to say to the economy of Hamilton, which has been devastated by this recession and further devastated by an arbitrary, ill-considered decision to cancel the Red Hill Creek Expressway? What is he going to say to the people of Hamilton?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): It's a good question. Since you've asked me, what I will tell the people is simply that Hamilton-Wentworth continues to be the proponent. Yes, we are anxious to get a recommendation and an answer to the alternative sought. Yes, full funding will continue from the Ministry of Transportation. We mean what we say. We work in the collective. This is no time for gloom and doom. Let's not go back to yesteryear to find an alternative within an established timetable. This has been arrived at. We're going forward and

we're anxious to share those few precious moments with the good people from Hamilton on Friday.

1530

Mr Sorbara: I simply say to the Minister of Transportation that if that's what he is going to say to the people of Hamilton, perhaps he'd better reconsider his plans to attend his party's convention this weekend.

It is our information—speaking about credibility—that the Ministry of Transportation has concluded its assessment of an alternative route. The minister himself promised it would be available in April or May, and it is now almost the end of June. The study is concluded, we are told, and it recommends the route originally proposed by the people of Hamilton-Wentworth. The only reason for this delay is that the minister's budget has been cut by some \$300 million this year because he didn't have the ability to argue on behalf of the people of Hamilton-Wentworth in cabinet deliberations. The reason he is not proceeding is that he doesn't have the money and he doesn't have any alternative route to the one initially proposed and accepted by the people of Ontario, this Legislature and its government before the last election.

Hon Mr Pouliot: If there is anyone in this House who is all dressed up with no place to go, it is certainly not the Minister of Transportation. In fact, someone could go so far as to say—keeping the proper tone—that the former emperor across has no clothes.

It is true that these are difficult, but far from impossible, times. When you take away the anti-recession component of the last budget and other subject matter in terms of estimates, you find that the ability of this ministry and this minister particularly to secure a large part of the capital funding as announced by the Treasurer is alive and well, Mr Speaker.

Business as usual, due process, indeed is following its course. Merchants of fear will not deter people's right to access to the most modern form of transportation, that for which they pay so dearly; that which they wish to have in a reasonable time.

ARTS AND CULTURAL FUNDING

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. Last month, the Ontario Arts Council released a report called *Occupation: Artist*, which confirms the sad reality that many of Ontario's artists are poor. This minister is quoted in the *Brantford Expositor* on May 2 as follows:

"I think, in recessionary times, it only makes the arts stronger. Artists are not strangers to working in conditions with little money and they are not strangers to working in hard times. I've talked to artists who make less than \$10,000 a year, so actually the recession is probably making them stronger in their commitments or stronger in their work."

My question, Mr Speaker, is very serious. Could this minister please expand on her statement and tell us in what way she believes recessions or hard times make the arts and artists stronger?

Interjections.

Hon Karen Haslam (Minister of Culture and Communications): Actually—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Will the minister take her seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon Mrs Haslam: Mr Speaker, I find it very disheartening that they find this very funny. These are very difficult times, and people in the arts community are well aware of that. I am very pleased that the ministry has been able to support the artists through the Ontario Arts Council. They had a 15% increase in their funding last year, and a lot of those funds go directly to artists and to art organizations in support of artists. I agree it's a very difficult time for artists, and it's not unusual for them to be making, as the member has indicated, less than \$10,000. It is very true and it is very disheartening, so I share her concern about that.

Mrs Marland: The artists are going to be very encouraged by that response, because this minister has chosen not to answer the question, which was, how does she feel hard times make it easier or make the artist stronger and so forth? It's really significant that this minister says, "The Ontario Arts Council gives them money." She does not realize what the problem is. As far as we're concerned, in our party, we believe it's a tragedy for Ontario artists that this culture minister is so unbelievable as to promote the cliché of a starving artist. I'd like to see her try to live on \$10,000 a year, let alone produce good art while doing it.

In case this minister doesn't know, the poverty line income for a single person in a large urban centre is \$12,727 a year, and for a family of four it rises to \$30,000 a year. This government is continuing the problem by forcing the Art Gallery of Ontario to lay off 200 staff and reduce its services to Ontario's visual artists and to art galleries across the province.

I ask this minister again, do you plan to do anything to improve the state of artists in Ontario, who you think can learn from tough times and recessionary times, which you think make them stronger? What is it you're going to do for the artists in this province?

Hon Mrs Haslam: The ministry has had some very long consultations with the artists in the arts community. It's a very complex situation. What the federal government has done is introduce status of the artist legislation. It is something we are looking at also. It is a very complex issue. We have consulted to a great degree with many people out in the communities. I hope we will continue to look at this aspect of the artist in our communities.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The Minister of Transportation, with the answer to a question asked earlier by the member for York Mills.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I welcome the opportunity to respond to the question raised by the member for York Mills yesterday. Of course, we're fully satisfied that all Management Board's criteria

guidelines were strictly adhered to in awarding this contract. It's under the heading of unsolicited research proposals, so it does fit the bill. Due process was strictly adhered to. We're also satisfied that considerable time and effort were spent on establishing the criteria for the proposal. We specifically checked to ensure there were no duplications in terms of the criteria for the contract.

The contract was simply meant to foster a better relationship between labour, management and government. Of course, the member refuses to acknowledge that labour should have a voice in formulating the policies. Unfortunately, you will be fully cognizant that this attitude is outdated and does not fit in with the kind of competitive economic reality of today.

The Speaker: Could the minister conclude his response?

Hon Mr Pouliot: We are inviting the member to join us so that he too can attest first hand as to the positive—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Pouliot: —contribution made by the three parties involved for a better future.

1540

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Mr Speaker, what a load of tripe. The study was not solicited and it wasn't tendered. The study was approved by your staff, Minister, before they had the opportunity to review the work plan or before the terms of reference were worked out. The Canadian Urban Transit Association wrote you expressing serious concern with the concept. They found that the study proposal was ill defined and that the study significantly duplicated work already done. They wrote, "The impression is that this is an effort to develop more effective strategies for collective bargaining and member representation."

These are very real concerns. It's too bad the Canadian Urban Transit Association was only notified about the project on December 2, 1991, after you had already approved the \$160,000 expenditure.

The Speaker: And the supplementary?

Mr Turnbull: Is it your normal practice to approve a study without any tendering, before it has been demonstrated that it's needed and before you've consulted with anybody as to its terms? Is this the meticulous contract procedure you spoke about in the House yesterday, Minister, with taxpayers' money?

Hon Mr Pouliot: Let me clarify for the edification of the distinguished member across. He refers to the legitimacy of the contract, and rightly so. We're all aware that taxpayers must get fairness and a fair bang for their hard-earned dollars.

Mr Turnbull: Why wasn't it tendered?

Hon Mr Pouliot: You don't have to shout at me. If a contract is less than \$250,000, if it fits the research criteria of Management Board, you don't have to tender, you must not solicit. We didn't ask for it, they came to us with the proposal.

The people across for decades adhered to the same rules, and their tenure was succeeded by the members of

the official opposition adhering to the same strict principles, and we're following suit in terms of due process.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Pouliot: To suggest that the workers don't have a legitimate role to play is incomprehensible. I wish the member across would, once and for all, stop his anti-worker agenda. It's simply not constructive.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The minister will be aware that he has recently sent a letter retroactively cancelling the London-Middlesex negotiation process as part of the ministry's preparation in fighting the court action launched by the county. Also, the county court case, as you know, Mr Minister, is scheduled to proceed this week and challenges your right to cancel negotiations under the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. Given the pending court action, will the minister delay his legislation until the court rules on whether the proposed legislation contravenes the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I'm obviously not going to get into the details of a case that is before the courts other than to say the member doesn't have it quite correct about the question before the courts. The question before the courts, as I understand it, is challenging the right of the government and the Legislature to even deal with the legislation, and that matter will be dealt with by the courts. It's our opinion that we do have the right. The legislation is prepared and going through the very final stages of the approvals process and I expect to be able to introduce it this week.

Mr Grandmaitre: They're still challenging your ruling: You're contravening the Municipal Boundary Negotiations Act. Your government has talked about building a new partnership with municipalities, but the people of Middlesex and the city of London fail to see the partnership that you're trying to build.

Can the minister explain how imposing legislation to slice up the county of Middlesex, which is unanimously opposed by local residents, builds any partnership? Also, can the minister explain how proceeding with legislation in the face of a court challenge from the affected municipalities builds any partnership? People have lost faith, Mr Minister, in your decision to impose your own plan on the annexation of the greatest part of Middlesex.

Hon Mr Cooke: I think the member might want to check with some of the local politicians in London and Middlesex, because as he will know as a former minister, whenever you're dealing with annexation issues, some support you and some don't. This is not a unanimous vote of support or opposition on the arbitration process that has taken place. I did spend a lot of time in London in the last few weeks to try to find a solution that could be acceptable to the county and the city. That was not possible because of the very unique nature of Middlesex county, and we have to proceed.

He will know that there are environmental problems in Westminster. There are economic problems in that area because of the uncertainty that exists, because there hasn't been an annexation solution developed in the past.

We can't continue to just freeze \$60-million worth of development. As you know, there was a development freeze imposed by your government that is still there, waiting for this solution. I don't intend to have thousands of people remain unemployed, continue unemployed when there is a solution that's viable even though the solution is tough to deal with politically. There are a lot of things that have been left to this government to deal with by your government, that are tough politically, but we're not going to run away from them as you did.

ONTARIO TRAINING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): My question today is for the Minister of Education. Mr Minister, school boards have a number of concerns with regard to the current government proposals for the establishment of the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board. I'm sure you know of their concerns about lack of representation on the main board and program transfers.

On April 2, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association requested a meeting with you to discuss the role of the publicly funded school systems and the provision of labour force development programs. To date, Mr Minister, two and a half months later, they've not received a reply from you and that is in spite of your cabinet's decision that no designated seats shall be there for school board representation.

Mr Minister, if you're not going to meet with them and if these decisions are being made at the cabinet table, how do you expect the school boards to believe that in fact you're doing everything you can as a Minister of Education to advocate for them when it comes to this OTAB discussion?

Hon Tony Silipo (Minister of Education): I have had a number of discussions with representatives of various school boards around the OTAB issue, and as I've indicated to them I understand their concerns and in fact share the concerns they've expressed, as I've indicated already to my colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities. We've had some discussions already between the minister and myself and we are going to continue those discussions.

There are a number of issues that school boards have indeed raised with respect to representation issues but beyond that with respect to the provision of services. Some of the concerns they have, I believe we are in the process of resolving and addressing in terms of the assurance that they will certainly continue to play a very key role in the provision of services to adults and in a whole range of other concerns that time won't allow me to get into in detail. But it's my sense that in the discussions we are continuing to have between the two ministries we can address those concerns.

1550

Mrs Cunningham: The minister will not be surprised to know that the school boards won't be happy with that

response. They expect to meet with you, and I'll just leave that one with you.

In a meeting with the deputy minister of OTAB held last week, the school board sector working group learned that an interministerial committee is currently collecting information on all training and adjustment programs and developing criteria to be used to determine which programs will be transferred. This is the interministerial committee. The school board sector working group was assured that once decisions have been made regarding which programs are to be transferred, the affected parties will be consulted on how the transfers will occur to minimize the impact.

Mr Minister, school boards must be consulted prior to any decisions being made on programs to transfer. Today I'm going to ask you, as the Minister of Education, will you guarantee that school boards will be part of the consultation process that will decide which programs will be transferred? That's what they want to know.

Hon Mr Silipo: My understanding is that in fact the school boards have been consulted and will certainly continue to be consulted. I can assure the member that we will ensure that continues to happen. We have put together a number of issues that school boards have raised with us, which we have specifically put to the OTAB secretariat and the minister to look at. As I said in my response earlier, we will be meeting specifically to address those issues and to make sure that we've taken those concerns that the school boards have brought to our attention and addressed them in the process that's being put together now to continue the implementation of the OTAB structures.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party on June 10 both urged you to consider allowing GTA waste to be sent to an abandoned open-pit mine near Kirkland Lake. There's an abandoned open-pit mine at Marmora called the Marmoraton mine and it's upstream of my constituency. This concerns my constituents. Can you assure the people of Marmora, can you assure Lionel Bennett, the reeve of Marmora and Lake township, can you assure the mayor of Belleville, Shirley Langer, can you assure the people of Marmora that their mine will not become a GTA waste site?

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I can. The point the member made in his preamble is precisely one that I tried to make last week, which is that you can't do an environmental assessment by picking a site and then doing an environmental assessment. You have to look at a whole range of options and alternatives and then find the best site, and within the entire province, if you were going to look at one site outside the GTA, then you'd have to look at a range of sites outside the GTA. The effect of our policy is for us to be able to say with some assurance to the people of Marmora, "Your open-pit mine will not be considered for GTA waste."

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Supplementary?

Mr Johnson: I indeed do have a supplementary. Given that we all know the obvious dire environmental consequences of using the Marmoraton mine, I have a press release dated August 3, 1990, from Mike Harris, and the members of the third party might know this particular individual. On August 3, 1990, Mike Harris was standing beside the Marmoraton mine in Marmora and he said, and this is a quote: "Under the Liberal process it will take at least 12 months to determine that this is not a good place to throw garbage. It takes anyone standing here 12 seconds to reach the same conclusion."

My question to the minister is this: Can you explain why Mr Harris thinks a similar mine near Kirkland Lake, knowing the obvious dire consequences to the environment—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Would the member complete his question, please.

Mr Johnson: —of using an open-pit mine to take refuse and garbage—does the minister think Kirkland Lake is a good place to throw that garbage?

Interjections.

The Speaker: I asked the members of the House to come to order. The member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings will have an opportunity to pose his supplementary. Had the member completed his supplementary?

Mr Johnson: Could the minister explain why Mr Harris might think that the mine in Kirkland Lake is a good place to throw garbage?

Hon Mrs Grier: I certainly couldn't begin to explain—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: How would the Minister of the Environment have any idea what a Conservative leader would think about the environment?

The Speaker: I suppose in a few seconds we may find out. The Minister of the Environment.

Hon Mrs Grier: No, Mr Speaker, I'm afraid I can't answer that question, but perhaps it flows from that same press release as—

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mrs Grier: —Mr Harris's assertion that there should be class environmental assessments of waste management.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I must warn the member for Etobicoke West that he has been asked several times to come to order. If he chooses not to come to order, he is a cause of disorder in this chamber. I ask the member one more time, will he please show respect for this chamber by coming to order? Otherwise I will name him.

The time for oral questions has expired.

Interjections: Oh.

The Speaker: We're all disappointed about that.

USE OF QUESTION PERIOD

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I am kind of disappointed about it, because you know what has happened here today. The Premier walked out of this House and caused grave—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. The Speaker cannot determine what is a point of order until the Speaker hears what the member alleges to be a point of order. It would assist the process if all members could just be quiet for a few moments so that I can hear what the member believes to be a point of order. I also urge all members again to please try to use temperate language.

Mr Elston: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I appreciate that. Under the circumstances, I think I know what your answer will be to this, but I have noted for you under standing order 16 again that from time to time grave disorder is created by the very nature of the activities of the government side when it comes to dealing with our questions.

Mr Speaker, I think it has been the way of this Parliament since we came back here in April that the government has taken unto itself the idea that if the Premier does not appear here, does not answer questions, passes them up or walks out of the question period during the first half of our sitting here, he won't have to face the music. That causes great upset.

On two consecutive days now, yesterday and today, we have had questions that have been placed by backbench members of the New Democratic Party which have been designed to incite the members of the opposition to believe that in fact they are doing nothing but running the clock. Mr Speaker, I ask you to consider the question just asked by the honourable member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings where he asked the Minister of the Environment to comment publicly on what is in the mind of the member for Nipissing, the leader of the third party.

I cannot for the life of me see how that fits into the standing orders requirement that there is, with respect, great public interest having to do with the Minister of the Environment speculating about either the motives or the knowledge or the position of another member of this opposition bench or of the party to the left of me.

1600

That is not of great public debate; it is question period with respect to the public policy of the government. It is for me, Mr Speaker, to therefore ask you to bring those members to order in other question periods, but in particular on today's date because of the nature of that question following as it did on the heels of the demonstration by the Premier and on the demonstration of the backbench members on previous occasions and on the demonstration by backbench members in asking ministers to make statements in this place during question period, and that you allow us to have one more question in this House today.

I understand you may be very much pressed on this issue, but day after day I have stood in my place and asked you to consider the nature of the conduct of the party, not on each of its phrases which are designed to cause great disorder but upon the building of phrase upon phrase, of

action upon action to determine a definite government strategy to offend and defeat the purpose of the opposition parties. I only ask you for equitable treatment in this fashion on today's date.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker: I would ask you to take under consideration whether or not the honourable member was in fact impugning motive in his question and in his statements in the House today. The government is all too quick to point out to members on this side of the House when it feels they're impugning the motive of a cabinet minister as to why he or she has done a certain thing or brought in a particular piece of legislation. Surely we deserve the same treatment over here.

The Speaker: Would the members resume their seats for a moment.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): Mr Speaker, on the same point of order.

The Speaker: This is new information, I trust?

Mr McClelland: I think it's relevant, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The member for Brampton North, if it's new information.

Mr McClelland: Mr Speaker, I confess that I may be one of the people who contributed somewhat to a little bit of the across-the-floor exchange that took place earlier today. I want to add to the point made by my House leader in this regard.

I'll be very candid with you. I had a question to put to the Minister of the Environment. I didn't get an opportunity to do it because of the question that really was not substantive in any way. I think if you were to review the question put by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings, you would understand why that kind of—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): Point of privilege.

The Speaker: I'm dealing with a point of order right now. I'll be very pleased to get to the member for York Mills with his point of privilege.

To the member for Bruce and the member for Parry Sound: I understand the point he's attempting to make with respect to the fielding of questions by the Premier and his ability under the standing orders to refer those questions. I must say it's my observation that perhaps many of the concerns he expresses might be the topic of discussion for a House leaders' meeting to determine if there is in fact a bona fide complaint which can be resolved.

There is nothing out of order with the Premier or any minister of the crown redirecting a question. The member will also know that there is no rule to compel the attendance of any member of this House; it doesn't matter whether you're on the government side or the opposition side.

I understand the member's point with respect to the question posed by the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings. While, because of the noise in the chamber, it was difficult to hear every word that was said, I did not hear anything which was impugning motives.

It is also quite difficult, I trust the member might agree, that what is deemed to be of public importance to one member with respect to his or her riding may not be deemed to be of public importance to some other member, or indeed to all the other members collectively of the entire assembly.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Each member has the opportunity when recognized to raise questions which relate to his or her constituency or critic portfolio, or any other issues. The member, as I listened carefully to his question, I believe was raising something that in general terms could be described as relating to his riding. But it would be very difficult, since we do not vet questions in advance, a practice that was abandoned some years ago. When members are re-examining the rules, if they wish to reinstitute the practice of vetting questions through the Speaker's office, indeed that may be something members wish to consider.

Lastly, I fully appreciate the member's point with respect to the general tone that is set in the House. I can only say to the member and to all members that I have a grave concern about the tone, especially as we saw it today. I don't think your Speaker can do it all by himself. I think it will take the collective efforts of every person in this House to try to set the right course.

Perhaps some of the concerns which he has very legitimately brought to my attention are concerns that can be discussed in an amicable atmosphere with all three House leaders, as is the practice in our chamber and a good practice, as a way to try to resolve differences of opinion and provide a smooth question period.

Mr Turnbull: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: I'm sorry, the member for York Mills had risen earlier on a point of privilege.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: It does have bearing on your ruling that you've made, but it stands by itself. In point of fact, the Minister of Transportation, at the end of his response to my supplementary today, did impugn motive in suggesting that in some way the Conservatives have some anti-union agenda. That is clearly impugning motive.

Mr Speaker, I would suggest that you consider the extracts of Hansard from this Instant Hansard and request that the minister retract that and indeed correct the record in Hansard.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for York Mills, I indeed listened very carefully to the response. The Minister of Transportation.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): It's in the records of the House, to answer the member for Oakville South: "I will fight the workers." Was it a Freudian slip? I am just quoting.

Interjections.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Well, I'm not the one who said it, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please. I ask the member to take his seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for York Mills, I listened carefully to the response by the Minister of Transportation and I must say that while the statement he made would perhaps be classified as provocative, and indeed represents a difference of opinion, it is not in a classification of impugning motives. It is quite clearly a difference of opinion between the two sides of the House with respect to the matter that was being discussed.

I understand why the member would bring it to my attention, but it's not a point of privilege. The member for Oakville South.

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): The Minister of Transportation, just a few moments ago, talked about something I said in Hansard. I think if anyone will read the record, what he said that I said is not there, and I would ask that he withdraw.

The Speaker: This is hardly the forum to be debating what was or wasn't said in Hansard, unless it pertains directly to a point of privilege. It certainly would be helpful if members could restrain themselves from responding to every single point that is raised in the House so that we can get on with our public business.

Interjections.

The Speaker: We'll rewind the tape. If the Minister of Transportation, upon reflection, believes that he has said something that is not accurate and has in fact offended the member for Oakville South, perhaps he'd like to withdraw.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Fundamental differences I can live with, and I'm willing to withdraw. I apologize. I have nothing but friends here, I trust, and if it's a matter of personal—

Mr Jean Poirier (Prescott and Russell): Ha, ha.

Hon Mr Pouliot: No, no. If we take things away from the political arena, it still means a lot to me. You can laugh all you will, and I respect you and I respect what you say. I will leave it at that level. I will withdraw if it offended the member.

1610

MEMBERS' CONDUCT

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: When you are considering the issue of grave disorder in the House—and I heard you calling certain members of the House to order appropriately, as you are supposed to do when there is disorder in the House, and we appreciate the difficulty you have in your job—I hope that in making the assessment of when you're going to name a member—and a member is mostly responsible herself or himself for being named, quite obviously—you take into consideration the provocation that has caused a member to become exceedingly upset, as the member for Etobicoke West was, for instance, because there were two questions in the House that would have caused that.

There was a question directed to the Premier, which he would not answer and he passed off. The same kind of

question is from the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings, and I happen to think the member for Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings can ask whatever question he sees fit, and you will judge whether it's in order or not. But we get the same question, and of course there's someone very prepared to answer that question. In the other case, the Premier is not prepared; he wants to pass it off to someone else. I'm just simply pointing out that that's why we get grave disorder in this House.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for St Catharines, I fully understand, I think as each Speaker does, that in judging each situation on its own merits one takes into account all of the events that are occurring. Of course, being able to maintain decorum in the House is sometimes a bit more challenging than other times. But perhaps now we're making progress.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe there was a certain disservice and a disrespect shown to the Speaker of the Legislature by the Attorney General of this province. It is as follows—

The Speaker: Sorry, you can't raise a point of order on behalf of someone else.

Mr Offer: I am raising it as—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. If the Attorney General has done something to offend the Speaker, he perhaps would apologize, but to my knowledge, he has not done anything to offend the Speaker.

USE OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Actually, Mr Speaker, it is a point of privilege that I rise on at this moment. You will see in my hand for immediate release the Ontario New Democrat convention agenda of June 11, 1992—

Interjection: Are you invited?

Mr Elston: Well, I'm not invited, but I guess we could probably go as observers for a price; they'll sell for anything.

My point of privilege surrounds the fact that one of the contact people is Jill Marzetti, whom we all know about, and her telephone number is there. But the second contact person with respect to this material is Sheila in the Premier's office, and they give the Premier's office, a 325 number, as the contact to deal with the annual meeting and the agenda attached for the New Democratic Party of this province.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The point of privilege?

Mr Elston: The privilege is that party politics are not to be funded out of the public offices of this building. The precincts of this place are supposed to be separate from the party officials' work for the New Democratic Party of this province. There is now clear evidence that the Premier's office is being used for the partisan purpose of organizing the annual meeting.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for Bruce, I understand the point he's raising, and if he would be kind enough to forward that to me I would be pleased to take a

look at it and reserve judgement obviously. I'll deal with it as quickly as I am able to.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr David Ramsay (Timiskaming): Mr Speaker, I rise today on a point of personal privilege. I hesitate to do so, but I've used other methods in this House to try to bring to the attention of the government a matter I feel is very important. It's got to do with the way government ministries communicate with members of this Assembly. The way they do that, I find, encumbers the way my office operates. I brought this to the attention of the House a year ago, Mr Speaker, as a private member's statement.

A year ago, the Minister of Culture and Communications communicated to me, which I really appreciated, the number and the amount of grants that ministry had presented to all the library boards in my area. Today, I found in my office 23 envelopes with 23 letters addressed to all my various library boards, when I had told the previous minister a year ago that a list would suffice. In fact, I'd like to bring a positive example forward. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology sent us a letter the other day, one sheet listing all the various grants to different businesses in our riding.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Could the member identify what privilege he believes he's lost?

Mr Ramsay: Mr Speaker, I believe in trying to run an efficient office here, representing the constituents I represent. My staff has to waste the time, besides the taxpayers' money being spent on all this paper. The Minister of Culture and Communications sends me in one day 23 letters, all identical. That encumbers the—

The Speaker: I see. The member for Timiskaming does not have a point of privilege. However, I understand his interest in the matter. It's one that is of concern to him, and perhaps he may wish to discuss it with the minister responsible.

PETITIONS

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition. It reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent, empirical studies of the impact amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

That has been signed by members of Roof Maintenance, which is a division of Ed Christensen Roofing Ltd of Vineland, Ontario. I have signed my name to this petition.

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I've affixed my name to this petition.

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): On behalf of 118 signatories, I'd like to present a petition involving the inclusive neighbourhoods campaign.

"Whereas there is a shortage of affordable rental housing units in Ontario;

"Whereas this shortage most affects individuals and groups facing discrimination and social and economic disadvantages;

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Code affirms that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, handicap or receipt of social assistance and that any policy or factor which results in the exclusion of people who come within the prohibitive grounds of discrimination is illegal;

"Whereas the province of Ontario agreed to article XI of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, an aspect which is not to be discriminated against;

"We therefore petition the government of Ontario, in particular the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Citizenship, to immediately put an end to this widespread violation of human rights across the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet the health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing."

I affix my signature of support.

1620

RIGHT TO APPEAL

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, reading as follows:

"We, the undersigned residents of Ontario, in support of the mother of Debra Pauline Williams Ellul, draw to the attention of the House the following:

"That the right to appeal the decision made in Debra Williams Ellul's murder acquitting Guy Ellul of all charges be granted based on the fact that the decision not to allow

the appeal does not accurately reflect the public's abhorrence and unacceptability of the outcome of this trial."

I concur with this petition and I have affixed my signature to it.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition of 240 signatures from my riding of Dufferin-Peel, Stratford, Kingston, Kitchener and Gloucester. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas independent and non-partisan economic studies have concluded that the proposed changes to Ontario labour legislation will increase job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline in investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery and the maintenance of a sound economic environment in the province;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Ontario government declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the labour legislation in the best interests of the people of Ontario."

I have affixed my name to this petition.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): I continue to get petitions from the county of Middlesex. This one is signed by residents of the town of Strathroy and townships of Adelaide, North Dorchester and Westminster, who, through their townships and county councils, have requested a reduction in the size of the annexation in the county of Middlesex, the preservation of agricultural land and the rural way of life.

I have signed my name to this petition.

EDUCATION FINANCING

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): I have a petition to the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We the ratepayers, parents, staff and students of the Metropolitan Separate School Board are concerned about the way in which Catholic education is funded by the Ontario government in Metropolitan Toronto.

"Although separate schools have been given the right to provide education to the end of grade 12 OAC, they were never given equal funding. For example, in 1991 a Catholic elementary school child in Metro was educated with 75% of the money spent on his/her public school counterpart and the Catholic high school student was allocated only 70% of the money spent on his/her public school counterpart. These differences represent a shortfall of \$1,678 per student at the elementary level and \$2,502 at the high school level, leaving the Metropolitan Separate School Board \$198 million short of their Metro public counterparts in total operating costs/revenue for the same number of students.

"The BNA Act of 1867 recognizes the right of Catholic students to a Catholic education, and in keeping with this the province of Ontario supports two education systems from kindergarten to grade 12 OAC. Unfortunately only 20% of residential taxes go into the separate school coffers.

Unless the Catholic householder specifically elects to support the separate school system, his or her residential taxes go into the public school purse by default. By 1995, the pooling of corporate taxes that started in 1989 will be complete, but the separate schools will be entitled to only 20% of this money, and not the 30% that one might expect. Unfortunately the division of funds is based on residential assessment and not on student enrolment.

"We urge you to act now to restructure the way in which municipal and provincial tax dollars are apportioned so that Ontario's two principal education systems are funded not only fully but with equity and equality."

I have attached my signature to this petition.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Gary Carr (Oakville South): I am pleased to table a petition signed by concerned employees of Ontario's printing industry, which reads as follows:

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the proposed changes to labour legislation will increase potential job losses; and

"Whereas they will cause a decline of investment in Ontario; and

"Whereas they will seriously undermine the recovery of a sound economic environment; and

"Whereas a recent public opinion poll showed that 83% of Ontario citizens support the withdrawal of these proposed changes;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to declare a moratorium on any proposed changes to the existing labour legislation."

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr Larry O'Connor (Durham-York): I have a petition that has been signed by 22 constituents in my riding, and it concerns inclusive neighbourhoods my fellow member just presented a petition on.

"Whereas there is a shortage of affordable rental housing units in Ontario; and

"Whereas this shortage most affects individuals and groups facing discrimination and social and economic disadvantage, for example, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, first nations people, women, gay men and lesbians, seniors, youth, single parents, people with children, people with disabilities, psychiatric survivors and people on social assistance; and

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Code affirms that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation, without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, handicap or receipt of social assistance, which is section 2(1), and that any policy or factor which results in the exclusion of people who come within the prohibited grounds of discrimination is illegal; and

"Whereas people who cannot afford to buy a house are often excluded from the lower-density neighbourhoods which are generally well served by community, educational and recreational services; and

"Whereas many thousands of home owners in all municipalities across Ontario have created additional units in their homes that have not changed the quality of life in their neighbourhoods; and

"Whereas tenants in such illegal units are not guaranteed the legal rights and protections that tenants in legal units have, therefore creating two classes of tenants; and

"Whereas zoning is only supposed to control land use, in practice it has excluded members of disadvantaged groups from living in many neighbourhoods; and

"Whereas such zoning practices are exclusionary and are a violation of the rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code; and

"Whereas the province of Ontario agreed to article XI of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a treaty signed by Canada and 96 other nations, which recognizes that housing is one of the fundamental human rights, an aspect of which is the right not to be discriminated against in housing choice and location,

"We therefore petition the government of Ontario, in particular the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Citizenship responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Code, to immediately put an end to this widespread violation of human rights across the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing."

I affix my name.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I have a petition.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas investment and job creation are essential for Ontario's economic recovery,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To instruct the Minister of Labour to table the results of independent empirical studies of the impact that amendments to the Labour Relations Act will have on investment and jobs before proceeding with those amendments."

This petition has been signed by members of Valcom Ltd, which is located in the city of Ottawa. I have signed my name to this petition.

REVENUE FROM GAMING

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): I have a petition with 20 signatures from constituents in my riding.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the amateur sports teams and charitable organizations across Ontario derive their financial support from the proceeds of bingos and various Monte Carlo nights; and

"Whereas the NDP government is planning on legalizing casinos and other forms of gambling; and

"Whereas this action will render it increasingly more difficult for amateur sports teams and charitable organiza-

tions to raise funds to support amateur sports and charities; and

"Whereas the volunteers who operate these facilities are not looking for handouts and seek only to raise funds to support their amateur sports teams and charitable organizations,

"We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to ensure that the government maintains the ability of these amateur sports teams and organizations to continue to raise needed support money through bingos and various Monte Carlo nights."

I have affixed my name to that petition.

1630

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): I have a petition.

"Whereas there is a shortage of affordable rental housing units in Ontario; and

"Whereas this shortage most affects individuals and groups facing discrimination and social and economic disadvantage, for example, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, first nations people, women, gay men and lesbians, seniors, youth, single parents, people with children, people with disabilities, psychiatric survivors and people on social assistance; and

"Whereas the Ontario Human Rights Code affirms that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status, handicap or receipt of social assistance and that any policy or factor which results in the exclusion of people who come within the prohibited grounds of discrimination is illegal;

"Whereas people who cannot afford to buy a house are often excluded from the lower-density neighbourhoods which are generally well served by community, educational and recreational services;

"Whereas many thousands of home owners in all municipalities across Ontario have created additional units in their homes that have not changed the quality of life in their neighbourhoods;

"Whereas tenants in such illegal units are not guaranteed the legal rights and protections that tenants in legal units have, therefore creating two classes of tenants;

"Whereas zoning is only supposed to control land use, in practice it has excluded members of disadvantaged groups from living in many neighbourhoods;

"Whereas such zoning practices are exclusionary and are often a violation of rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code;

"Whereas the province of Ontario agreed to article XI of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a treaty signed by Canada and 96 other nations, which recognizes that housing is one of the fundamental human rights, an aspect of which is the right not to be discriminated against in housing choice and location;

"We therefore petition the government of Ontario, in particular the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Minister of Housing and the Minister of Citizenship responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Code, to immediately put an end to this widespread violation of human rights across the province by amending the Planning Act so as to require all municipalities to permit the creation of additional rental units that meet health and safety standards in neighbourhoods zoned for single-family housing."

I've affixed my signature.

USE OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Just very briefly, you heard me speaking to the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere, who occupied the seat as Speaker earlier in the afternoon. I do now ask a page to bring to you for transmittal a copy of the press release with the Premier's office contact with respect to the New Democratic Party's convention.

Plus, I wish by way of my statement to indicate that I'm sending forward also another document, a copy of a report from the Kenora Daily Miner and News, February 25, 1992, wherein no less an authority than the Attorney General has also indicated that the New Democratic Party is "totally separate" from the Premier and his cabinet. I wish this also to be taken into consideration by the Speaker when he reviews my point of privilege earlier undertaken on my behalf.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): I'll be very glad to oblige.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATIONS ACT

LOI DE 1992

SUR LES FONDATIONS UNIVERSITAIRES

Hon Mr Allen moved first reading of Bill 68, An Act respecting University Foundations / Loi concernant les fondations universitaires.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Would you like to make a statement, Minister?

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Colleges and Universities): Yes, Mr Speaker. The purpose of this act is to permit the establishment of university foundations as crown agencies that will receive and distribute contributions to support universities in Ontario. I want to stress that this legislation will provide opportunities for universities to access donations from all individuals and corporations and from people with moderate incomes as well as those who can make larger contributions.

Last November, this House debated a resolution pertaining to university foundations. At that time, all parties agreed on the principle of that resolution. I have a letter from the Leader of the Opposition expressing her support. The member for London North, as the critic for Colleges and Universities, has also confirmed her support for this bill.

I hope this good faith towards this piece of legislation will be extended by all members of the House when we get to consider the bill.

The Deputy Speaker: On a point of order, the member for York Centre.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: My point of order relates to the introduction of the bill by the minister to create university foundations and it arises under section 31 of the standing orders. The introduction of this bill represents one more occasion when a bill is introduced in this House during that part of routine proceedings relating to introduction of bills and there is no statement made by the minister during ministers' statements, as provided for under section 31, so that we can comment.

If I might just for a moment, Mr Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: It's not a point of order.

CITY OF NORTH BAY ACT, 1992

Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill Pr17, An Act respecting the City of North Bay.

Motion agreed to.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO HOSPITAL ACT, 1992

Mr Cooper moved first reading of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE HUMAN HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO ABRIN ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ENQUÊTE SUR LES EFFETS SUR LA SANTÉ D'EXPOSITION À L'ABRIN

Mr Cordiano moved first reading of Bill 69, An Act to require the Minister of the Environment to direct an Investigation into the Deleterious Human Health Effects of Exposure to Abrin / Loi enjoignant au ministre de l'Environnement d'ordonner une enquête déterminant les effets néfastes de l'abrin sur la santé des humains qui y sont exposés.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Do you have a statement to make?

Mr Joseph Cordiano (Lawrence): Yes, Mr Speaker, to the Minister of the Environment. It's absolutely essential that when something as deleterious as abrin can occur in the human body then it's important that the Minister of the Environment is charged with the responsibility of conducting investigations to ensure that those deleterious effects won't be long-lasting and that they won't have the kind of harmful side-effects to human health that can occur from abrin.

1640

CITY OF NORTH BAY AND TOWNSHIP OF FERRIS ACT, 1992

Mr Harris moved first reading of Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the City of North Bay and Township of East Ferris.

Motion agreed to.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE HUMAN
HEALTH EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO
BENZOAPYRENE ACT, 1992

LOI DE 1992 SUR L'ENQUÊTE
SUR LES EFFETS SUR LA SANTÉ D'EXPOSITION
AU BENZOAPYRÈNE

Mr Sorbara moved first reading of Bill 70, An Act to require the Minister of the Environment to direct an Investigation into the Deleterious Human Health Effects of Exposure to Benzoapyrene / Loi enjoignant au ministre de l'Environnement d'ordonner une enquête déterminant les effets néfastes du benzoapyrène sur la santé des humains qui y sont exposés.

Motion agreed to.

TASK FORCE ON ONTARIO BANKRUPTCIES
AND INSOLVENCIES REVIEW AND INQUIRY ACT, 1992
LOI DE 1992 SUR LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
CHARGÉ D'ENQUÊTER SUR LES FAILLITES
ET LES SITUATIONS D'INSOLVABILITÉ EN ONTARIO

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): I move first reading of Bill 71, An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the role of provincial taxation, regulatory and labour policies in the bankruptcies and insolvencies of selected Ontario companies for the period from the 6th day of September, 1990 until the end of March, 1992 including:

A & B Office Equipment Leasing Co Ltd, A & L Commercial Cable Inc, A & T Consulting Ltd, A L Associates Advertising & Marketing Ltd, Academy Holdings Ltd, Agrylux Paints Limited, Action Retail Stores Ltd, Advantage Signs Ltd, Adsetts Retail Enterprises Inc, Advance Business Centre Limited, Advance Gas Tank Industries Inc, Aerial Platforms Ltd, Aerometals Inc, Agassiz Resources Ltd, Agincourt Jewellers Limited, Air Atonabee Limited, Al Schwartz Enterprises Limited, Alair Laboratories Ltd, Alanna's Enterprises Incorporated, Alex L Glass Limited, Alfred Packers Ltd, All Seasons Holiday Limited, All Type Truckers Supply Inc, Alta Communication Systems Inc, Alta Signs & Manufacturing Corp, Aluminum "84" Ltd, American Fabrics Limited, Amtop Enterprises Inc;

Andy's Excavating Limited, Angelo Retail Corporation, Angelo's Hardware Limited, Anjam Enterprises Inc, Ankles Shoes Ltd, Annette Village Inc, Annette Village Investments Limited, Anz Restaurants (Orangeville) Ltd, Anz Restaurants (Simcoe) Ltd, Archie Gibson Trucking Limited, Aristar Communications Corporation, Aristograf Grapics Inc, Art Light Co Limited, Arthur Reynolds Enterprises Limited, Arthurs Publications Limited, Artistic Restaurant Equipment Ltd, Artwork Landscape Contractors Ltd, ASAP Computer Products Ltd, Ascona Spinning Ltd, Astin Garden Centre Ltd, Atlas Carbon and Ribbon Limited, Augdome Corporation Limited, Auto Lynn Ltd, Auto Ville Leasing, Aux Habits Hawkesbury Suit Inc, AVACS Cellular Network Inc, Avant Kitchen Gallery Inc, Ayre's Limited;

B & M Construction Inc, B J Larken Inc, Balloon Busters (Newmarket) Ltd, Balloon Busters (Toronto) Ltd, Barbazon Sales Inc, Bargain Harold's Discount Limited, Barney's Antiques Ltd, Barrymore's Imperial Theatre Ltd, Bartram Wood Limited, Battle Investments Inc, Beacon

Hill Building Cleaning Ltd, Beautiful Creations Unlimited Inc, Belleville Furniture & Appliances Limited, Bellini Kitchens Ltd, Belvedere Kitchens Limited, Bergeron General Contractors Inc, Bestway Kitchens Limited, Better Living Furniture Warehouse Limited, Big Boy Electronics Ltd, Bildon Designs Co Limited, Bill Howett Pontiac Buick Limited, Bill Thompson Transport Limited, Binac Canada Metallurgical Limited;

Bob Bannerman Motors (Hamilton) Inc, Bob Walker Screen Supplies Ltd, Bornemann Mechanical Inc, Bottoms Up Diaper Service Inc, Bovines Ltd, Bradley Computax Inc, Brandlake Products Limited, Bratti Mechanical Inc, Brian Beattie Motors Ltd, Brian Martineau Retailing Ltd, Bright Interiors & Bright Closets & Furniture, Brikens Gifts Inc, Brites Furniture Warehouse (Dundas) Inc, British Upholstery Ltd, Brokon Inc, Brown Business Centre Inc, Brown Holdings J & D Limited, Brownco Textiles Incorporated, Brox's Olde Town Village Co Ltd, Bruce County Dodge Chrysler Limited, Buchanan Footprints Inc, Burl Oak Tire Inc, Burlington Business Computers Inc, Burwood Co Limited (The), Byrne Glass Enterprises Limited;

C. Pagani Construction Limited, C. Clarke Cartage Limited, CN Shoes Limited, Cadillac Lumber Limited, Caesar Shoes and Leather Goods Corporation, Caledon Chrysler Dodge Limited, Caledon East Feed Mill (1989) Ltd, Caledonia Plymouth Chrysler Ltd, Calenox Information Systems Inc, Cambridge Fine Cars Inc, Cameo Interiors Limited, Cameron Masonry Incorporated, Can Europe Gem—

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm writing as fast as I can. I'm trying to get all these names down. Could the member read just a little more slowly? I'm having a very difficult time. We're only on the Cs and my hand is already worn out.

1650

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Please take your seat. The member for York Mills, you have the floor.

Mr Turnbull: —Consultants Inc, Canada Lease Financing Ltd, Canadian Aircraft & Auto Co Inc, Canadian Atlas Furniture Inc, Canadian Court Consultants Ltd, Canadian Fish Finders Limited—

Interjections.

Mr Turnbull: I have to stop for a moment. The bears seem to be getting a little bit restless over there. They don't appreciate—

The Deputy Speaker: It is the responsibility of the Speaker to make sure that order is kept in the House. Thank you for your help. I would ask you to keep on reading your bill.

Mr Turnbull: —Canadian Met Craft Industries Limited, Canadian Polyols International Inc, Cancorp Financial Services Ltd, Candie Enterprises Ltd, Candlelight Mechanical Limited, Cango Petroleums Inc, Cango Petroleums Limited Partnership, Cango Petroleums Ltd, Capital City Rustproofing Limited, Capri Kitchens Limited, Cardon Rose Inc, Caredin Construction Ltd, Carlaw Footwear

(1980) Limited, Carley and Katz Limited, Carpet Doctor Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Ltd, Carpet Systems International Inc, Carter Cathcart Advertising Ltd, Cartoon Classics Toys Corporation, Case Jones Inc, Casselman Realities Ltd, Castle/Black Paper Group Inc, Casual Joe's Resort Wear and Souvenirs Inc, Caver Tree Service Limited;

C B Carpentry & Renovations Ltd, CBN Financial Group Ltd, Ceaser's Banquets at the Tannery Inc, Century 21 Lakevista Realty Inc, Century 21 Marquis Realty Ltd, Century 21 Morehouse Realty Inc, Century Anaheim Properties Inc, Century Apalache Development Inc, Century Imperial Properties Inc, Century Kitchens Inc, Century Marie Properties Inc, Century Peda Developments Ltd, Cereston Incorporated, Challenger Industries Inc, Charamonte Foods Distributors Ltd, Chatelaine Kitchen Design Ltd, Checkers Smoke & Gift Inc, Chelsea Interiors Incorporated, Chez Josette Ltd, Chiu Brothers Company Ltd, Christopher Pallett Design Group Limited, Christopher Printing (Canada) Inc, Christopher's Pies & Fries Inc;

Cinners Cinnamon Buns and Croissants, City Metal Fabrication Limited, City Scapes Inc, Clair Displays Screen Printers Inc, Claredon Capital Investments Inc, Classic Cargo Systems Canada Inc, Classic China Ltd, Claxton's Clothiers Ltd, Cliff & Walters Lithographing Co Ltd, Climate Holidays Travel Inc, Clinton's Flowers & Gifts Ltd, Club West Inc, Cobra Seats Ltd, Colaon Investments Ltd, Colin Hine Automobiles Ltd, College Copy Shop Limited, Commercial Truck Parts Ltd, Commercial Truck Sales Ltd, Commercial Vending (Sarnia) Ltd, Com-mex Manufacturing Inc, Compucon Construction Corp, Computer Class Corporation, Conlin Engineering and Planning Ltd, Consumer Black Top Paving Limited, Consumers Millwork Co Limited, Contempra Gift Stores Limited, Coopers Draperies & Rugs Limited, Coral Place Ltd.

I'm putting a little bit more oomph than the Premier did, who beetles off today without answering questions. Of course, we on this side have a lot less to hide than you on that side.

Cord King of Canada Inc, Cordova Auto Collision Ltd, Countrywide Realty Network Inc, Courtice Construction Limited, Craftline International Limited, Creative Impulse Advertising Ltd, Creative Impulse Graphics Ltd, Creative Impulse Ltd, Creative Impulse Printing Ltd, Creeds Limited, Crema Furniture Ltd, Crown Millwork Ltd, CTEC Transport Systems Ltd, Cuisine Select Inc, Custom Cakes & Catering Inc, Custom Filling & Manufacturing Inc, Custom Holdings Ltd, Custom Truck Bodies Limited, Customcraft Division of Pracomm Refinements Inc;

D J's Blended Seasons Limited, D. Richards & Associates Advertising Limited, D & C Roussy Industries Ltd, D & S Mangan Investments Inc, Dacol Industrial Limited, Dala Distributors Inc, Dale Cor Trucking Inc, Dan & Son Fine Cars Inc, Dansilt Construction Ltd, Daniels (Front Street) Corporation, Daniels Development Corporation, Danrich Developments Inc, Data Ribbon Limited, Datem Ltd, Davchelle Enterprises Ltd, Dave Gibbon General Contracting Ltd, David Aaron Novick and Associates Architects (CDA) Inc, David Gary Clothier Ltd, D & M Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, D & M Mechanical Ltd, Deakin Pools Limited, Dealing Dan's Stereo & TV Ltd, Deborah

Rose Infant Toddler Day Care Inc, Deer Run Outfitters Co Limited, Del Mar Clothes Limited, Delmon Capital Group Limited, Delta Pharmaceuticals Canada Limited, Delta '70 Manufacturing Limited, Denelle Holdings Ltd, Derbyshire Healey Refrigeration Limited, Derick Transport Inc, Dessil Management Inc, Design Concepts by Miriam Muller Inc, Design Dynamics (1988) Ltd—

1700

Mrs Yvonne O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I am not sure there is a quorum present.

The Deputy Speaker: I will ask the table if there is a quorum.

A quorum is present.

Mr Turnbull: —Dessert Craft Products Corp, Devcar Graphics Inc, Diana Temple Fashions Inc, Die Tram Tool Limited, Display & Exhibit Canada Ltd, Diversified Impressions, Diversified Outreach Inc, Diversified Store Fixtures Inc, Do Mi Ti Investments Limited, Doctor Music Limited, Docu Serve Associates Ltd, Dohani Cabinet Creations Inc, Dominion Fittings Mfg Ltd, Dominion Paving Limited, Don Carlos Men's Wear Limited, Don Carriere Equipment Ltd, Donald V. Gross Enterprises Limited, Doug Ross Cartage Limited, Dovehaven Custom Wood Working Limited, Drexel Burnham Lambert Canada Inc.

Mr Speaker, I do have some concerns about all of these waters that have appeared. Since they do come from behind the NDP's benches, I would hope these are pure water. We know what they've got.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, your responsibility is to read your bill.

Mr Turnbull: Okay. Dual Video Inc, Dundas Engineering Services Ltd, Dunedin Carpet Corporation, Dunlop Construction Products Inc, Dunmore Furniture Company Limited, Dupont Paper Box Limited, Durham Doors Ltd, Dustmar Holding Ltd, Dynatronix Limited, Eagle Fire Suppression Systems Limited, East Way Auto Collision Centre Ltd, Eastern Wire Products Ltd, Eastway Motors (Hamilton) Limited, Easy Fashions Ltd, Economy Store Fixtures Limited—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): Mr Speaker, he is making a good case for rule changes.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member for Algoma was interfering with interjections, so I cannot hear the member for York Mills, and I really am interested in this.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Turnbull: —Edlor Crafts Inc, Eglinton Village Limited, Elan Corporation and Nova Metal Products Inc, Elements of Style 111 Ltd, Elks Inc, Enerfit Insulated Wall Structures Inc, Erik Contracting Inc, Erjo Central Athletic Ltd, ESC (Myles) Inc, Escalight Yogourt Ltd, Esprit Translation Ltd—

I beg your pardon, that should read—yes, translation. Sorry.

Mr Bernard Grandmaitre (Ottawa East): Start over again.

Mr Turnbull: Yes, maybe I should.

Essential Business Products, Essential Paper Limited, Euro Ceramics Ltd, Eurodesign Clothing Company Ltd, Eversonic Inc, Everspec Surfaces Limited, Exceltronix Computing Inc, Execupart Limited, Exotic Laminates Incorporated, Exus Holdings Ltd;

F & C Construction & Renovations Limited, F/K Heating & Cooling Inc, Fabricated Structural Components Inc, Fair Way Discount Centre Ltd, Farlawn Knit Manufacturing (1982) Inc, Family Group Financial (1988) Inc, Fanning Family Enterprises Inc, Fashion Designs by Ricardo Ltd, Fashion Optics Inc, Fashion Wear (1986) Inc, Fast Fix Commercial Equipment Repair Inc, Fern's Plumbing & Heating (BJW) Inc, Finch Centre Draperies Ltd, First Toronto Mining Corporation, Fitnessland Inc, Flamingo Road Cabaret Inc;

Forest City International Trucks Ltd, Forms Management Services Ltd, Fortex Investments Inc, Fortune Star Chinese Restaurant Ltd, Foulds Bros Co Limited, Fourkin Investments Ltd, Framar Caterers Ltd, Frameguild Custom Framing Inc, Frameland Ltd, Francine Footwear Limited, Francoz Metal Corporation Ltd, Frank Furlano Auto Repair Ltd, Frank Stevens Transmissions Ltd, Freeport Roofing and Contracting Ltd, Freightliner Truck Centre (Toronto) Limited, Furama Chinese Restaurant Ltd;

G. Allan Stewart Enterprises Limited, G. Ropat Construction Windsor Ltd, G & L Machine & Welding Shop, G. L. Construction Ltd, Gaetan Jodoir Construction Inc, Gara Printing Inc, Garo Limited, Gary Scobie International Trucking Corporation, Gasco Manufacturing Ltd, Gateway Express Limited, Gee & Gee Advertising Inc, General Trade Bindery Ltd, Genex Programmable Advertising Inc, George's Interiors Limited, Gestion Richard Fortier Ltd, GFC Power Ltd;

Gil's Fine Foods (1986) Limited, Gils Limited, Gilles Cable Contractor (1988) Limited, Ginger's Bath and Closet Accessories Limited, Gingras Drywall Ltd, Globe Air Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, Goldberg and Weisdorf Limited, Goldschmid Electric Ltd, Goodness Gracious Restaurant Ltd—that's quite appropriate, Goodness Gracious, because I just saw Goldschmid Electric Ltd, a company that did work for me, Mr Speaker. It's really to the point of this.

Governor's Mechanical Inc, Gow's Restaurant (1983) Ltd, Graham Long Ltd, Grand Italian Supermarket Ltd, Grant Brown Cadillac Pontiac Buick Ltd, Graphline Graphics Inc, Great Lakes Fleet Service, Great Lakes Marine Contracting Limited, Great North Conservation Products Inc, Green Gables (Ontario) Limited, Green Seal Office Supplies Limited, Guardian Collision Center Ltd, Gurney Farm Services Limited, Guy Grasseur Limited, Gypsum Tech Systems Inc;

Half Time Sports Inc, Hamilton Modular Buildings Inc, Hamilton Mountain Autohaus Inc, Harbour Fashions Limited, Harry Smith's Insurance Brokers Inc, Hart Marine Ltd, Hayes Mechanical Systems Ltd, Health First Doctor's Office Partnership I, Heatsaver Systems Inc, Hellenic Sports Depot Ltd, Herry's Rent A Car Inc, Heritage Whitby Realty Limited, Herman Louter Inc, Hevac Fireplace Furnace Mfg Ltd, Hickory Lane Construction Ltd, High Line Data Systems Inc, Highland Creek Catering

Limited, Highstyle Investments Ltd, Hillwell Manufacturing Inc, Hillwell Systems Inc, Hip Hip Hooray Inc, Hitech Erectors Incorporated, Homelife/Dynasty Realty Inc, Homelife/Supreme Realty Inc, Homelife/Tri Corp Realty Ltd, Horsefeathers Inc, House of Appel Fur (1985) Inc, Howarth & Smith Limited, Hubacco Investments Inc, Humber Automotive (1989) Ltd, Huntington's House of Fashion Inc, Hypermedia Productions Inc;

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I Magine Gems Inc, Iben Investments Limited, Ilma Verde Fashions Ltd, Image Plus Graphics Inc, Impact Manufacturing Limited, Impress Plastics Ltd, Independent Carriers Group Inc, Independent Wholesale Caterers Ltd, Info Guard Limited, Innovative Chair Designs Inc, Innovative Design Technologies Inc, Insight Planners Inc, Insta Vend Inc, Installex Telecommunications Services Inc, Interfax Financial Services Limited, Interior Techniques Inc, Interlake Steel Products Inc, Interline Masonry Ltd, International Golf Contractors Inc, International Robotic Manufacturing Limited, International Sports Medicine Centre Inc, Interprovincial Fire Protection Inc, ISS Equipment Company Limited, Ital Design Marble and Granite Inc;

J. Adams Overhead Garage Doors Ltd, J. Malkin Drugs Limited, J & L Romano Limited, J & S Golf Care Services Limited, J. A. Hamilton Management & Investment Ltd, J. Atlas Roofing Ltd, J. B. Corner Inc, J. B. F. Restaurant Incorporated, J. Jeffrey Antiques & Gifts Ltd, J. M. Ore Dressing Equipment Company Limited, J. N. Casting & Jewellery Ltd, Jack Roberts Marketing Services Limited, Jacobsen Books & News Inc, Jacques Sylvain Roofing & Plastering Ltd, JDA Equipment Repairs Ltd, Jemway Forwarding Inc, Jetstream Freightways Limited, Jev Contracting Limited, Jev II Limited, JHL Steel Products Ltd, JHL Set Consulting Services Inc, Jocelyne Assad Enterprises Inc, Joclair Ltd, John Blair Marine Specialities Inc, John Wheelwright Limited, Jonas & Erickson Software Technology Inc, Jonathan Miller Fashion Marketing Inc, Jonhanson Sports Ltd, Jordan Electric Limited, Joro (K. L.) Limited "The Style Shop", JRK Expositions Inc, Julia's Kitchen & Bath Design Inc, Junior Swank (Scarborough) Ltd, Juniper Heritage Services Ltd, Jupiter Chair Mfg Ltd, Jutro Construction Limited, Juvenile Junction Ltd;

K 10 Enterprises Limited, Kamport Enterprises Inc, Kamron Holdings Inc, Kanata Mirror & Glass Ltd, Kappa Signa Inc, Kapto Restaurants Limited, Kargun Inc, Karl's TV of Orillia Limited, Kathleen Lynch Enterprises Inc, Keeper Souvenirs Ltd, Ken Mason Marine Services Ltd, Ken Wilson Aircraft Sales Ltd, Kettle Creek Canvas Co Ltd, Key Pointe Retail Group Limited Partnership, Keyboard Music Centre Inc (The), Kiddie Kastle Inc, Kiddies Kastle Inc, Kiddy Warehouse Concept Inc, King Dom Health Spa Corporation, Kirey & Wilson Manufacturing Inc, Kirwan's Sports World Ltd, Kitchen Artisans Ltd, Kitchen World Kitchens Inc, Kuckartz Carpentry Ltd;

L C Charco Inc, L'Abée Construction (Ontario) Ltd, L'Amour Lingerie Corporation, La Belle Boutique Inc, La Cheminee Dining Lounge Inc, La Finesse Furniture Company Limited, La Mode De Vija Inc, Lacasse Enterprises

Inc, Lackie's Marina Limited, Lackies of Lake Simcoe Inc, Lackies on the Bay Inc, Lajax Fashions Limited, Lakeshore Fruit Toronto Limited, Landscape Liaison Ltd, Lang Roofing Inc, Lanorth Corporation, Las Italian Office Furnishings Inc, Laser Direct Inc, LaWest Fashions Ltd, Lawrason's Chemicals Ltd, Lees Restaurant Equipment Company Ltd, Lehmann Tool & Mould Incorporated, Leib Service Printings Limited, Les Goudrons Jean Louis Parent (1985) Ltee, Liftech Equipment Co Ltd, Liftech Services Limited, Lightside Foods Inc, Lignoplex Canada Inc, Lillian Letourneau's Contemporary Kitchens Inc, Linea Giusta Fashions Ltd, Lionel Villeneuve Heating Supplies Limited, Litho Blankets Ltd, Little Wise Owl Educational Toys & Books Ltd, Livewire Electrical Wholesale Stores Inc, Logics Holdings Inc, London Acoustics Limited, London Area Products Ltd, London Kitchen Gallery Inc, Lora Lane Group Inc—

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member for York Mills is reading from quite a lengthy list in the introduction of bills. I wonder if he could confirm that the beginning of his preamble is a list of bankruptcies in Ontario?

Mr Turnbull: I think that's a very good point the member for Eglinton makes. Indeed this is.

The Deputy Speaker: Please read your bill.

Mr Turnbull: It includes in the bill the list of names of bankruptcies in this province.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. You haven't been asked to make a statement. I'm asking you to read your bill, please.

Mr Turnbull: Lord & Burnham Inc, Los Primo Ltd, Ludwig & Son Roofing Ltd, Lurose Restaurants Inc, M & Al Roofing Ltd, M J Automotive Inc, MJK Industries Inc, Macro Engineering Co Ltd, Major Video Canada Inc, Maker Electric Limited, Maker Mechanical Services Limited, Malcolm Black Equipment Limited, Manselle Ladies' Wear Ltd, Man Sai Enterprises Inc, Mandem Inc, Manes Brothers Construction Ltd, Manhire Industrial Services Ltd, Manotick Tire Services (Kingston) Ltd, Manufacturers Apparel Outlet Inc, Maple Precast Limited, Marathon Equipment Ltd, Marketcom Inc, Markville Transmission Clinic Ltd, Marshall Refrigeration Co Limited, Massao's Sports & Cycle Ltd, Masuko International Corp, Mater's Management Ltd, Matrik Marble & Tile Ltd, Matthews Nova Trucking Limited, Maxiprest Canada Inc, Maxwell Diversified Industries Ltd, McKay Metallurgical Limited, McLean Converting Company Limited, McLean Converting Hospital Division Ltd, McLean Hannah Studios Ltd, McLeod Bishop Systems Ltd, Media Decisions Inc, Media Specialists Limited, Medic Demand Partnership;

Mediquip Healthcare Inc, Mediterranean Interiors Furniture Warehouse & Showroom Ltd, Medler McKay Holdings Ltd, Mega Plumbing (1938) Limited, Mender Developments Limited, Mercier Agri Centre Inc, Merit Automotive Products Limited, Metcalfe Slender Vision Unisex Salon Ltd, Metrospeed International Courier Corporation, Michael Askin and Company Inc, Michael Henry Clothiers Ltd, Mighty Container Ltd, Miles MacDonald & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Miller Financial Corp, Mill-

stone Trucking Ltd, Milton Bridge Limited, Milton Spring and Suspension Inc, Ming Hong Herbal Centre Ltd, Mintz Investments Limited, Mipa Group Limited (The), Miracom Communications Inc, Mississauga Builders Hardware Midway Ltd, Mississauga Builders' Hardware Limited;

Mississauga Jeep Eagle (1990) Ltd, Mister Real Estate Inc, Montego Forest Products Limited, Monty's Electric Supply Co Ltd, Morewood Industries Limited, Moureaux Hauspy Forrest Design Inc, Mr Chips & His Fish Ltd, Mulvey & Canani Information Services, Mulvey Engineering Limited, Munro Meats & Produce Limited—
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Interjections.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Standing orders expressly prohibit interjections. Not only is the member for Yorkview interjecting, but he's interjecting from a seat other than his own. I think on both points of order that you should rule.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): You have a very valid point of order. The honourable member for Yorkview is not in his seat, and of course interjections, particularly when a member is not in his seat, are totally out of order. The honourable member for York Mills is presenting a bill. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor.

Mr Turnbull: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

—National Bindery Systems Ltd, Natmich Investments Limited, Near North Bowling Centre Inc, Nelan Investments Limited, Nethercott Lee Volkswagen Ltd, Network Copy Systems Inc, Nevasco Industries Inc, Newbank Group Ltd, Newgen Service Systems Inc, Newman Steel Ltd, Niagara Knitting Inc, Nielsen Computers Inc, Niemi Textile Inc, Nora Leathers Ltd, Norman Morrison Advertising Ltd, Normandeau Carpet, Wallpaper & Ceramic Tile Centre Ltd, NRS Advantage Inc, NRS Esprit Realty Inc, NRS Progressive Realty Inc, NRS Realty Relocations Inc, NRS Rosehood Real Estate Ltd;

Oakstar Transportation Systems and Oakstar Enterprises, Oakville Optical Limited, OEP (Toronto) Inc, Ogilvie Roadhouse Limited, Old Mill Food Centre Inc, Omega Apparel (1988) Inc, Omni Restaurants Inc, Omni Stone Corporation, Omnitron (Cornwall) Inc, One Stop Rent All Ltd, Optex Corporation, Orangeroo Limited, Orient Express (Windsor) Inc, Ottawa Direct Marketing Publications Inc, Ottawa Lawn Pro Ltd, Ottawa Renaissance Development Corporation, Our Neighbourhood Publishing Co Inc, Overtime Sports Inc, Owen Sound Business Machines Inc, Oxford Stereo & TV Ltd;

P & B Daniels Interiors Inc, P. Chartrand & Sons Limited, PD Dynasty Jewels Ltd, P. Taylor Landscape Development Company Ltd, Pacer Panel Systems Inc, Pack All International Inc, Paddintong's Bed and Bath Inc, Palm Pools Ltd, Pamar Marbleceramic Ltd, Pantrem Jeanswear International Inc, Pape Black Kent Clothes Limited, Paradise Shoes Inc, Paragon Designs Limited, Paris Brick Company Limited, Paris & Roma Men's Fashions Limited, Parkinson Publishing Inc, Patrie Builders and Renovators Limited, Patron Contracting Limited, Paul Bernard

Company Limited, Penson Farm Equipment Ltd, Penta Shoes—

Interjections.

Mr Turnbull: Mr Speaker, I believe you've already given an admonition to one of these people across the floor for interjecting, particularly when they're not in their seats. I direct your attention to that.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I know this is a rather long bill and I can appreciate why some people are interjecting but you well know, as members of this Legislative Assembly, that interjections are out of order. The honourable member for York Mills is presenting a bill, a bill of some importance, because he's mentioning many, many corporate entities. Please allow the honourable member the time and the—

Mr Anthony Perruzza (Downsview): Mr Speaker, this is the single most important thing he has ever done.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is not in his seat. I'm sorry I can't recognize him. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor in introduction of bills. The member for York Mills.

Mr Turnbull: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

—Pentagon Merchandising Industries Ltd, Peppers Food Fair Limited, Perkins Motors Limited, Perry Originals Incorporated, Pete's Garden and Fruitland Limited, Peter Ferguson Limited, Peter Landsman & Associates Inc, Peter's Place Inc, PG Warehousing Inc, Pickering Rotisserie Company Limited, Pink Elephant Holdings Limited, Pink Pearl (North York) Ltd, Pint Sizes Ltd, Piontek Inc, Platisoons Investments Inc, Pleasing Dreams Ltd, Polysten International Inc;

Por Ita Construction Ltd, Portside Seafood Inc, PPH Precision Plumbing & Heating Inc, Practical Electric (1986) Inc, Precise Communications Inc, Preston & Lieff Glass Limited, Preston Brock Manufacturing Co Ltd, Print City Inc, Prism Yachts Inc, Pro Golf of Canada Inc, Pro Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, Pro Reflections Inc, Pro Transportation Consultants Inc, Provincial Crane Inc, Prudential Lease Funding Inc, Purdy Plumbing Inc, Purezone Inc;

RCI Limited, RF Shielding Inc, RJ Siberry Ltd, RMS Fabricating Inc, Radio Television Representatives Limited, Rag Tag—

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Would it be in order if we unanimously agreed to pass this bill and you dispensed with reading it so he can get what he wants?

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The Acting Speaker: Sorry, that's not a point of order. The honourable member for York Mills is presenting a bill. He has the floor and I would respectfully ask all members to respect the honourable member for York Mills as he presents this bill. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor.

On a point of order? The honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I wonder if

you could help me. The member in reading his bill is reading a large number of names of corporations. I wonder if it would be more appropriate for him to also include their addresses.

The Acting Speaker: That's not really a point of order. The bill is already written in due and acceptable form.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I wish the government members would quit interrupting the member so we can get on with the business of the House.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for York Mills has the floor. Please give him the opportunity of presenting his bill.

Mr Turnbull: It would indeed be good if we could give addresses, but in fact these companies are out of business since this government came to power, so they don't have an address any more.

—Radio Television Representatives Limited, Rag Tag Panic Wear (1990) Ltd, Rajesky Realty Ltd, Ray Furniture & Interiors Limited, Realty 2001 Developments Limited, Realty 2001 Inc, Regatta Yacht Sales (East) Ltd, Regatta Yacht Sales (West) Ltd, Regatta Yacht Sales Ltd, Regency Foodmarts Inc, Reliable Installations—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor and there is a terrible amount of noise here. The Speaker can't hear.

Mr Perruzza: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm wondering, through you, if it would be in order to find out how many man-hours went into the preparation of that bill, because I'd like to know how much taxpayers' money was wasted on that.

The Acting Speaker: It's not a point of order; it's the normal business of this Legislature. The honourable member for York Mills has the floor.

Mr Turnbull: Indeed, it is a shame. These were taxpayers. They're not taxpayers any more because they're bankrupt since this government has been in power.

—Dismantle, Remax Achievers Inc, Remax Central Realty Inc, Remax Choice Realty Ltd, Rent A Room Inc, Revel Luminaires Limited, Rex Forming Limited, Rexcraft Rivers Edge Corporation, Richmond Heights Interiors Limited, Ridgeway Collision Inc, Ritz Mangement Inc, Riverside Dental Inc, Road Music & Promotion Agency Ltd, Robbin Lloyd Switzer Sales Inc, Robert Andrew Monteith Inc, Robert E. Simpson Supply Limited, Roberts & Deacon Saw Company Limited, Robin Edward Charles Clarke Limited, Robinson & Jones Insurance Agency Limited, Roboak Holding Inc, Rolmaster Conveyors Ltd, Ron Ellis Sports Inc, Ron Inglis Homes Limited, Ronart Trading Limited, Rosemes Electric Supply Limited, Rotom of Canada Ltd, Royal City Chrysler Plymouth Limited, Royal City Material Handling Ltd, Royal Woodbine Golf Corporation, Rozar Boutique Ltd, Ruby's Food Services Limited, Ruhl Transportation Technologies Inc, Ross Oliver Jewellery Limited, S. C. Building Products Limited, S. Rotamn Enterprises Limited, S. A. M. Silk Flower Co Ltd, S. L. V. Slender You, Sagar Linens Inc, Sage Baccarat Inc,

Samic (Canada) Limited in the period from September 1990 to March 1992.

That is my bill and I ask that it now be read for the first time, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Mr Turnbull has moved the Task Force on Ontario Bankruptcies and Insolvencies Review and Inquiry Act, 1992.

Interjections: Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: It's my understanding that the bill has to be read by the Speaker.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the role of provincial taxation regulatory and labour policies in the bankruptcies and insolvencies of selected Ontario companies for the period from September 6, 1990 until the end of March 1992 including:

A & B Office Equipment Leasing Co Ltd, A & L Commercial Cable Inc, A & T Consulting Ltd, A L Associates Advertising & Marketing Ltd, Academy Holdings Ltd, Agrylux Paints Limited, Action Retail Stores Ltd, Advantage Signs Ltd, Adsetts Retail Enterprises Inc, Advance Business Centre Limited, Advance Gas Tank Industries Inc, Aerial Platforms Ltd, Aerometals Inc, Agassiz Resources Ltd, Agincourt Jewellers Limited, Air Atonabee Limited, Al Schwartz Enterprises Limited, Alair Laboratories Ltd, Alanna's Enterprises Incorporated, Alex L Glass Limited, Alfred Packers Ltd, All Seasons Holiday Limited, All Type Truckers Supply Inc, Alta Communication Systems Inc, Alta Signs & Manufacturing Corp, Aluminum "84" Ltd, American Fabrics Limited, Amtop Enterprises Inc;

Andy's Excavating Limited, Angelo Retail Corporation, Angelo's Hardware Limited, Anjam Enterprises Inc, Ankles Shoes Ltd, Annette Village Inc, Annette Village Investments Limited, Anz Restaurants (Orangeville) Ltd, Anz Restaurants (Simcoe) Ltd, Archie Gibson Trucking Limited, Aristar Communications Corporation, Aristograf Graphics Inc, Art Light Co Limited, Arthur Reynolds Enterprises Limited, Arthurs Publications Limited, Artistic Restaurant Equipment Ltd, Artwork Landscape Contractors Ltd, ASAP Computer Products Ltd, Ascona Spinning Ltd, Astin Garden Centre Ltd, Atlas Carbon and Ribbon Limited, Augdome Corporation Limited, Auto Lynn Ltd, Auto Ville Leasing, Aux Habits Hawkesbury Suit Inc, AVACS Cellular Network Inc, Avant Kitchen Gallery Inc, Ayre's Limited;

B & M Construction Inc, B J Larken Inc, Balloon Busters (Newmarket) Ltd, Balloon Busters (Toronto) Ltd, Barbazon Sales Inc, Bargain Harold's Discount Limited, Barney's Antiques Ltd, Barrymore's Imperial Theatre Ltd, Bartram Wood Limited, Battle Investments Inc, Beacon Hill Building Cleaning Ltd, Beautiful Creations Unlimited Inc, Belleville Furniture & Appliances Limited, Bellini Kitchens Ltd, Belvedere Kitchens Limited, Bergeron General Contractors Inc, Bestway Kitchens Limited, Better Living Furniture Warehouse Limited, Big Boy Electronics Ltd, Bildon Designs Co Limited, Bill Howett Pontiac

Buick Limited, Bill Thompson Transport Limited, Binac Canada Metallurgical Limited;

Bob Bannerman Motors (Hamilton) Inc, Bob Walker Screen Supplies Ltd, Bornemann Mechanical Inc, Bottoms Up Diaper Service Inc, Bovines Ltd, Bradley Computax Inc, Brandlake Products Limited, Bratti Mechanical Inc, Brian Beattie Motors Ltd, Brian Martineau Retailing Ltd, Bright Interiors & Bright Closets & Furniture, Briken's Gifts Inc, Brites Furniture Warehouse (Dundas) Inc, British Upholstery Ltd, Brokon Inc, Brown Business Centre Inc, Brown Holdings J & D Limited, Brownco Textiles Incorporated, Brox's Olde Town Village Co Ltd, Bruce County Dodge Chrysler Limited, Buchanan Footprints Inc, Burl Oak Tire Inc, Burlington Business Computers Inc, Burwood Co Limited (The), Byrne Glass Enterprises Limited;

C. Pagani Construction Limited, C. Clarke Cartage Limited, CN Shoes Limited, Cadillac Lumber Limited, Caesar Shoes and Leather Goods Corporation, Caledon Chrysler Dodge Limited, Caledon East Feed Mill (1989) Ltd, Caledonia Plymouth Chrysler Ltd, Calenox Information Systems Inc, Cambridge Fine Cars Inc, Cameo Interiors Limited, Cameron Masonry Incorporated, Can Europe Gem Consultants Inc, Canada Lease Financing Ltd, Canadian Aircraft & Auto Co Inc, Canadian Atlas Furniture Inc, Canadian Court Consultants Ltd, Canadian Fish Finders Limited.

Canadian Met Craft Industries Limited, Canadian Polyols International Inc, Cancorp Financial Services Ltd, Candie Enterprises Ltd, Candlelight Mechanical Limited, Cango Petroleums Inc, Cango Petroleums Limited Partnership, Cango Petroleums Ltd, Capital City Rustproofing Limited, Capri Kitchens Limited, Cardon Rose Inc, Caredin Construction Ltd, Carlaw Footwear (1980) Limited, Carley and Katz Limited, Carpet Doctor Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Ltd, Carpet Systems International Inc, Carter Cathcart Advertising Ltd, Cartoon Classics Toys Corporation, Case Jones Inc, Casselman Realities Ltd, Castle/Black Paper Group Inc, Casual Joe's Resort Wear and Souvenirs Inc, Caver Tree Service Limited;

C B Carpentry & Renovations Ltd, CBN Financial Group Ltd, Ceaser's Banquets at the Tannery Inc, Century 21 Lakevista Realty Inc, Century 21 Marquis Realty Ltd, Century 21 Morehouse Realty Inc, Century Anaheim Properties Inc, Century Apache Development Inc, Century Imperial Properties Inc, Century Kitchens Inc, Century Marie Properties Inc, Century Peda Developments Ltd, Cereston Incorporated, Challenger Industries Inc, Charamonte Foods Distributors Ltd, Chatelaine Kitchen Design Ltd, Checkers Smoke & Gift Inc, Chelsea Interiors Incorporated, Chez Josette Ltd, Chiu Brothers Company Ltd, Christopher Pallett Design Group Limited, Christopher Printing (Canada) Inc, Christopher's Pies & Fries Inc; 1740

Cinners Cinnamon Buns and Croissants, City Metal Fabrication Limited, City Scapes Inc, Clair Displays Screen Printers Inc, Claredon Capital Investments Inc, Classic Cargo Systems Canada Inc, Classic China Ltd, Claxton's Clothiers Ltd, Cliff & Walters Lithographing Co Ltd, Climate Holidays Travel Inc, Clinton's Flowers & Gifts

Ltd, Club West Inc, Cobra Seats Ltd, Colacon Investments Ltd, Colin Hine Automobiles Ltd, College Copy Shop Limited, Commercial Truck Parts Ltd, Commercial Truck Sales Ltd, Commercial Vending (Sarnia) Ltd, Commex Manufacturing Inc, Compucon Construction Corp, Computer Class Corporation, Conlin Engineering and Planning Ltd, Consumer Black Top Paving Limited, Consumers Millwork Co Limited, Contempra Gift Stores Limited, Coopers Draperies & Rugs Limited, Coral Place Ltd.

Cord King of Canada Inc, Cordova Auto Collision Ltd, Countrywide Realty Network Inc, Courtice Construction Limited, Craftline International Limited, Creative Impulse Advertising Ltd, Creative Impulse Graphics Ltd, Creative Impulse Ltd, Creative Impulse Printing Ltd, Creeds Limited, Crema Furniture Ltd, Crown Millwork Ltd, CTEC Transport Systems Ltd, Cuisine Select Inc, Custom Cakes & Catering Inc, Custom Filling & Manufacturing Inc, Custom Holdings Ltd, Custom Truck Bodies Limited, Customcraft Division of Pracom Refinements Inc;

D J's Blended Seasons Limited, D. Richards & Associates Advertising Limited, D & C Roussy Industries Ltd, D & S Mangan Investments Inc, Dacol Industrial Limited, Dala Distributors Inc, Dale Cor Trucking Inc, Dan & Son Fine Cars Inc, Dansilt Construction Ltd, Daniels (Front Street) Corporation, Daniels Development Corporation, Danrich Developments Inc, Data Ribbon Limited, Datem Ltd, Davchelle Enterprises Ltd, Dave Gibbon General Contracting Ltd, David Aaron Novick and Associates Architects (CDA) Inc, David Gary Clothier Ltd, D & M Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, D & M Mechanical Ltd, Deakin Pools Limited, Dealing Dan's Stereo & TV Ltd, Deborah Rose Infant Toddler Day Care Inc, Deer Run Outfitters Co Limited, Del Mar Clothes Limited, Delmon Capital Group Limited, Delta Pharmaceuticals Canada Limited, Delta '70 Manufacturing Limited, Denelle Holdings Ltd, Derbyshire Healey Refrigeration Limited, Derick Transport Inc, Dessil Management Inc, Design Concepts by Miriam Muller Inc, Design Dynamics (1988) Ltd.

Dessert Craft Products Corp, Devcar Graphics Inc, Diana Temple Fashions Inc, Die Tram Tool Limited, Display & Exhibit Canada Ltd, Diversified Impressions, Diversified Outreach Inc, Diversified Store Fixtures Inc, Do Mi Ti Investments Limited, Doctor Music Limited, Docu Serve Associates Ltd, Dohani Cabinet Creations Inc, Dominion Fittings Mfg Ltd, Dominion Paving Limited, Don Carlos Men's Wear Limited, Don Carriere Equipment Ltd, Donald V. Gross Enterprises Limited, Doug Ross Cartage Limited, Dovehaven Custom Wood Working Limited, Drexel Burnham Lambert Canada Inc.

Dual Video Inc, Dundas Engineering Services Ltd, Dunedin Carpet Corporation, Dunlop Construction Products Inc, Dunmore Furniture Company Limited, Dupont Paper Box Limited, Durham Doors Ltd, Dustmar Holding Ltd, Dynatronix Limited, Eagle Fire Suppression Systems Limited, East Way Auto Collision Centre Ltd, Eastern Wire Products Ltd, Eastway Motors (Hamilton) Limited, Easy Fashions Ltd, Economy Store Fixtures Limited, Edlor Crafts Inc, Eglinton Village Limited, Elan Corporation and Nova Metal Products Inc, Elements of Style 111

Ltd, Elks Inc, Enerfit Insulated Wall Structures Inc, Erik Contracting Inc, Erjo Central Athletic Ltd, ESC (Myles) Inc, Escalight Yogourt Ltd, Esprit Translation Ltd, Essential Business Products, Essential Paper Limited, Euro Ceramics Ltd, Eurodesign Clothing Company Ltd, Eversonic Inc, Everspec Surfaces Limited, Exceltronix Computing Inc, Execupart Limited, Exotic Laminates Incorporated, Exus Holdings Ltd;

F & C Construction & Renovations Limited, F/K Heating & Cooling Inc, Fabricated Structural Components Inc, Fair Way Discount Centre Ltd, Farlawn Knit Manufacturing (1982) Inc, Family Group Financial (1988) Inc, Fanning Family Enterprises Inc, Fashion Designs by Ricardo Ltd, Fashion Optics Inc, Fashion Wear (1986) Inc, Fast Fix Commercial Equipment Repair Inc, Fern's Plumbing & Heating (BJW) Inc, Finch Centre Draperies Ltd, First Toronto Mining Corporation, Fitnessland Inc, Flamingo Road Cabaret Inc;

Forest City International Trucks Ltd, Forms Management Services Ltd, Fortex Investments Inc, Fortune Star Chinese Restaurant Ltd, Foulds Bros Co Limited, Fourkinder Investments Ltd, Framar Caterers Ltd, Frameguild Custom Framing Inc, Frameland Ltd, Francine Footwear Limited, Francoz Metal Corporation Ltd, Frank Furlano Auto Repair Ltd, Frank Stevens Transmissions Ltd, Freeport Roofing and Contracting Ltd, Freightliner Truck Centre (Toronto) Limited, Furama Chinese Restaurant Ltd; 1750

G. Allan Stewart Enterprises Limited, G. Ropat Construction Windsor Ltd, G & L Machine & Welding Shop, G. L. Construction Ltd, Gaetan Jodoir Construction Inc, Gara Printing Inc, Garo Limited, Gary Scobie International Trucking Corporation, Gasco Manufacturing Ltd, Gateway Express Limited, Gee & Gee Advertising Inc, General Trade Bindery Ltd, Genex Programmable Advertising Inc, George's Interiors Limited, Gestion Richard Fortier Ltd, GFC Power Ltd;

Gil's Fine Foods (1986) Limited, Gils Limited, Gilles Cable Contractor (1988) Limited, Ginger's Bath and Closet Accessories Limited, Gingras Drywall Ltd, Globe Air Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, Goldberg and Weisdorf Limited, Goldschmid Electric Ltd, Goodness Gracious Restaurant Ltd, Governor's Mechanical Inc, Gow's Restaurant (1983) Ltd, Graham Long Ltd, Grand Italian Supermarket Ltd, Grant Brown Cadillac Pontiac Buick Ltd, Graphline Graphics Inc, Great Lakes Fleet Service, Great Lakes Marine Contracting Limited, Great North Conservation Products Inc, Green Gables (Ontario) Limited, Green Seal Office Supplies Limited, Guardian Collision Center Ltd, Gurney Farm Services Limited, Guy Grasseur Limited, Gypsum Tech Systems Inc;

Half Time Sports Inc, Hamilton Modular Buildings Inc, Hamilton Mountain Autohaus Inc, Harbour Fashions Limited, Harry Smith's Insurance Brokers Inc, Hart Marine Ltd, Hayes Mechanical Systems Ltd, Health First Doctor's Office Partnership I, Heatsaver Systems Inc, Hellenic Sports Depot Ltd, Herry's Rent A Car Inc, Heritage Whitby Realty Limited, Herman Louter Inc, Hevac Fireplace Furnace Mfg Ltd, Hickory Lane Construction Ltd, High

Line Data Systems Inc, Highland Creek Catering Limited, Highstyle Investments Ltd, Hillwell Manufacturing Inc, Hillwell Systems Inc, Hip Hip Hooray Inc, Hitech Erectors Incorporated, Homelife/Dynasty Realty Inc, Homelife/Supreme Realty Inc, Homelife/Tri Corp Realty Ltd, Horsefeathers Inc, House of Appel Fur (1985) Inc, Howarth & Smith Limited, Hubacco Investments Inc, Humber Automotive (1989) Ltd, Huntington's House of Fashion Inc, Hypermedia Productions Inc;

I Magine Gems Inc, Iben Investments Limited, Ilma Verde Fashions Ltd, Image Plus Graphics Inc, Impact Manufacturing Limited, Impress Plastics Ltd, Independent Carriers Group Inc, Independent Wholesale Caterers Ltd, Info Guard Limited, Innovative Chair Designs Inc, Innovative Design Technologies Inc, Insight Planners Inc, Insta Vend Inc, Installex Telecommunications Services Inc, Interfax Financial Services Limited, Interior Techniques Inc, Interlake Steel Products Inc, Interline Masonry Ltd, International Golf Contractors Inc, International Robotic Manufacturing Limited, International Sports Medicine Centre Inc, Interprovincial Fire Protection Inc, ISS Equipment Company Limited, Ital Design Marble and Granite Inc;

J. Adams Overhead Garage Doors Ltd, J. Malkin Drugs Limited, J & L Romano Limited, J & S Golf Care Services Limited, J. A. Hamilton Management & Investment Ltd, J. Atlas Roofing Ltd, J. B. Corner Inc, J. B. F. Restaurant Incorporated, J. Jeffrey Antiques & Gifts Ltd, J. M. Ore Dressing Equipment Company Limited, J. N. Casting & Jewellery Ltd, Jack Roberts Marketing Services Limited, Jacobsen Books & News Inc, Jacques Sylvain Roofing & Plastering Ltd, JDA Equipment Repairs Ltd, Jemway Forwarding Inc, Jetstream Freightways Limited, Jev Contracting Limited, Jev II Limited, JHL Steel Products Ltd, JHL Set Consulting Services Inc, Jocelyne Assad Enterprises Inc, Joclair Ltd, John Blair Marine Specialities Inc, John Wheelwright Limited, Jonas & Erickson Software Technology Inc, Jonathan Miller Fashion Marketing Inc, Jonhanson Sports Ltd, Jordan Electric Limited, Joro (K. L.) Limited "The Style Shop", JRK Expositions Inc, Julia's Kitchen & Bath Design Inc, Junior Swank (Scarborough) Ltd, Juniper Heritage Services Ltd, Jupiter Chair Mfg Ltd, Jutro Construction Limited, Juvenile Junction Ltd;

K 10 Enterprises Limited, Kamport Enterprises Inc, Kamron Holdings Inc, Kanata Mirror & Glass Ltd, Kappa Signa Inc, Kapto Restaurants Limited, Kargun Inc, Karl's TV of Orillia Limited, Kathleen Lynch Enterprises Inc, Keeper Souvenirs Ltd, Ken Mason Marine Services Ltd, Ken Wilson Aircraft Sales Ltd, Kettle Creek Canvas Co Ltd, Key Pointe Retail Group Limited Partnership, Keyboard Music Centre Inc (The), Kiddie Kastle Inc, Kiddies Kastle Inc, Kiddy Warehouse Concept Inc, King Dom Health Spa Corporation, Kirey & Wilson Manufacturing Inc, Kirwan's Sports World Ltd, Kitchen Artisans Ltd, Kitchen World Kitchens Inc, Kuckartz Carpentry Ltd;

L C Charco Inc, L'Abée Construction (Ontario) Ltd, L'Amour Lingerie Corporation, La Belle Boutique Inc, La Cheminee Dining Lounge Inc, La Finesse Furniture Company Limited, La Mode De Vija Inc, Lacasse Enterprises Inc, Lackie's Marina Limited, Lackies of Lake Simcoe Inc,

Lackies on the Bay Inc, Lajax Fashions Limited, Lakeshore Fruit Toronto Limited, Landscape Liaison Ltd, Lang Roofing Inc, Lanorth Corporation, Las Italian Office Furnishings Inc, Laser Direct Inc, LaWest Fashions Ltd, Lawrason's Chemicals Ltd, Lees Restaurant Equipment Company Ltd, Lehmann Tool & Mould Incorporated, Leib Service Printings Limited, Les Goudrons Jean Louis Parent (1985) Ltee, Liftech Equipment Co Ltd, Liftech Services Limited, Lightside Foods Inc, Lignoplex Canada Inc, Lillian Letourneau's Contemporary Kitchens Inc, Linea Giusta Fashions Ltd, Lionel Villeneuve Heating Supplies Limited, Litho Blankets Ltd, Little Wise Owl Educational Toys & Books Ltd, Livewire Electrical Wholesale Stores Inc, Logics Holdings Inc, London Acoustics Limited, London Area Products Ltd, London Kitchen Gallery Inc, Lora Lane Group Inc, Lord & Burnham Inc, Los Primo Ltd, Ludwig & Son Roofing Ltd, Lurose Restaurants Inc, M & Al Roofing Ltd, M J Automotive Inc, MJK Industries Inc, Macro Engineering Co Ltd—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe there's unanimous consent that you dispense with the reading of the rest of this bill.

Interjections: No.

Mr Sterling: No? Okay, fine.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent to dispense?

Interjections: No.

The Acting Speaker: No, we do not have.

—M & Al Roofing Ltd, M J Automotive Inc, MJK Industries Inc, Macro Engineering Co Ltd, Major Video Canada Inc, Maker Electric Limited, Maker Mechanical Services Limited, Malcolm Black Equipment Limited, Manselle Ladies' Wear Ltd, Man Sai Enterprises Inc, Mandem Inc, Manes Brothers Construction Ltd, Manhire Industrial Services Ltd, Manotick Tire Services (Kingston) Ltd, Manufacturers Apparel Outlet Inc, Maple Precast Limited, Marathon Equipment Ltd, Marketcom Inc, Markville Transmission Clinic Ltd, Marshall Refrigeration Co Limited, Massao's Sports & Cycle Ltd, Masuko International Corp, Mater's Management Ltd, Matrik Marble & Tile Ltd, Matthews Nova Trucking Limited, Maxiprest Canada Inc, Maxwell Diversified Industries Ltd, McKay Metallurgical Limited, McLean Converting Company Limited, McLean Converting Hospital Division Ltd, McLean Hannah Studios Ltd, McLeod Bishop Systems Ltd, Media Decisions Inc, Media Specialists Limited, Medic Demand Partnership;

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Mediquip Healthcare Inc, Mediterranean Interiors Furniture Warehouse & Showroom Ltd, Medler McKay Holdings Ltd, Mega Plumbing (1938) Limited, Mender Developments Limited, Mercier Agri Centre Inc, Merit Automotive Products Limited, Metcalfe Slender Vision Unisex Salon Ltd, Metrospeed International Courier Corporation, Michael Askin and Company Inc, Michael Henry Clothiers Ltd, Mighty Container Ltd, Miles MacDonald & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Miller Financial Corp, Millstone Trucking Ltd, Milton Bridge Limited, Milton Spring and Suspension Inc, Ming Hong Herbal Centre Ltd, Mintz

Investments Limited, Mipa Group Limited (The), Miracom Communications Inc, Mississauga Builders Hardware Midway Ltd, Mississauga Builders' Hardware Limited;

Mississauga Jeep Eagle (1990) Ltd, Mister Real Estate Inc, Montego Forest Products Limited, Monty's Electric Supply Co Ltd, Morewood Industries Limited, Moureaux Hauspy Forrest Design Inc, Mr Chips & His Fish Ltd, Mulvey & Canani Information Services, Mulvey Engineering Limited, Munro Meats & Produce Limited;

National Bindery Systems Ltd, Natmich Investments Limited, Near North Bowling Centre Inc, Nelan Investments Limited, Nethercott Lee Volkswagen Ltd, Network Copy Systems Inc, Nevasco Industries Inc, Newbank Group Ltd, Newgen Service Systems Inc, Newman Steel Ltd, Niagara Knitting Inc, Nielsen Computers Inc, Niemi Textile Inc, Nora Leathers Ltd, Norman Morrison Advertising Ltd, Normandeau Carpet, Wallpaper & Ceramic Tile Centre Ltd, NRS Advantage Inc, NRS Esprit Realty Inc, NRS Progressive Realty Inc, NRS Realty Relocations Inc, NRS Rosehood Real Estate Ltd;

Oakstar Transportation Systems and Oakstar Enterprises, Oakville Optical Limited, OEP (Toronto) Inc, Ogilvie Roadhouse Limited, Old Mill Food Centre Inc, Omega Apparel (1988) Inc, Omni Restaurants Inc, Omni Stone Corporation, Omnitron (Cornwall) Inc, One Stop Rent All Ltd, Optex Corporation, Orangeroo Limited, Orient Express (Windsor) Inc, Ottawa Direct Marketing Publications Inc, Ottawa Lawn Pro Ltd, Ottawa Renaissance Development Corporation, Our Neighbourhood Publishing Co Inc, Overtime Sports Inc, Owen Sound Business Machines Inc, Oxford Stereo & TV Ltd;

P & B Daniels Interiors Inc, P. Chartrand & Sons Limited, PD Dynasty Jewels Ltd, P. Taylor Landscape Development Company Ltd, Pacer Panel Systems Inc, Pack All International Inc, Paddintong's Bed and Bath Inc, Palm Pools Ltd, Pamar Marbleceramic Ltd, Pantrem Jeanswear International Inc, Pape Black Kent Clothes Limited, Paradise Shoes Inc, Paragon Designs Limited, Paris Brick Company Limited, Paris & Roma Men's Fashions Limited, Parkinson Publishing Inc, Patrie Builders and Renovators Limited, Patron Contracting Limited, Paul Bernard Company Limited, Penon Farm Equipment Ltd, Penta Shoes;

Pentagon Merchandising Industries Ltd, Peppers Food Fair Limited, Perkins Motors Limited, Perry Originals Incorporated, Pete's Garden and Fruitland Limited, Peter Ferguson Limited, Peter Landsman & Associates Inc, Peter's Place Inc, PG Warehousing Inc, Pickering Rotisserie Company Limited, Pink Elephant Holdings Limited, Pink Pearl (North York) Ltd, Pint Sizes Ltd, Piontek Inc, Platisoons Investments Inc, Pleasing Dreams Ltd, Polysten International Inc—

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Dispense.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Bruce. Dispense?

Interjections: No.

The Acting Speaker: No.

—Por Ita Construction Ltd, Portside Seafood Inc, PPH Precision Plumbing & Heating Inc, Practical Electric (1986) Inc, Precise Communications Inc, Preston & Lief

Glass Limited, Preston Brock Manufacturing Co Ltd, Print City Inc, Prism Yachts Inc, Pro Golf of Canada Inc, Pro Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd, Pro Reflections Inc, Pro Transportation Consultants Inc, Provincial Crane Inc, Prudential Lease Funding Inc, Purdy Plumbing Inc, Purezone Inc;

RCI Limited, RF Shielding Inc, RJ Siberry Ltd, RMS Fabricating Inc, Radio Television Representatives Limited, Rag Tag Panic Wear (1990) Ltd, Rajesky Realty Ltd, Ray Furniture & Interiors Limited, Realty 2001 Developments Limited, Realty 2001 Inc, Regatta Yacht Sales (East) Ltd, Regatta Yacht Sales (West) Ltd, Regatta Yacht Sales Ltd, Regency Foodmarts Inc, Reliable Installations & Dismantle, Remax Achievers Inc, Remax Central Realty Inc, Remax Choice Realty Ltd, Rent A Room Inc, Revel Luminaires Limited, Rex Forming Limited, Rexcraft Rivers Edge Corporation;

Richmond Heights Interiors Limited, Ridgeway Collision Inc, Ritz Mangement Inc, Riverside Dental Inc, Road Music & Promotion Agency Ltd, Robbin Lloyd Switzer Sales Inc, Robert Andrew Monteith Inc, Robert E. Simpson Supply Limited, Roberts & Deacon Saw Company Limited, Robin Edward Charles Clarke Limited, Robinson & Jones Insurance Agency Limited, Roboak Holding Inc, Rolmaster Conveyors Ltd, Ron Ellis Sports Inc, Ron Inglis Homes Limited, Ronart Trading Limited, Rosemes Electric Supply Limited, Rotom of Canada Ltd, Royal City Chrysler Plymouth Limited, Royal City Material Handling Ltd, Royal Woodbine Golf Corporation, Rozar Boutique Ltd, Ruby's Food Services Limited, Ruhl Transportation Technologies Inc, Ross Oliver Jewellery Limited, S. C. Building Products Limited, S. Rotamn Enterprises Limited, S. A. M. Silk Flower Co Ltd, S. L. V. Slender You, Sagar Linens Inc, Sage Baccarat Inc, Samic (Canada) Limited in the period from September 1990 to March 1992.

1818

The House divided on Mr Turnbull's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—75

Arnott, Bisson, Bradley, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Conway, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Dadamo, Duignan, Elston, Eves, Fawcett, Ferguson, Fletcher, Gigantes, Grandmaitre, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harnick, Harrington, Harris, Haslam, Henderson, Hope, Huget, Jackson, Johnson, Jordan, Klopp, Kormos, Lankin, Lessard, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Mancini, Marchese, Marland, Martel, Mathysen, McClelland, McLean, Miclash, Mills, Morrow, Murdock (Sudbury), O'Connor, O'Neil (Quinte), Perruzza, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Poole, Ramsay, Rizzo, Runciman, Sorbara, Sterling, Stockwell, Sullivan, Sutherland, Turnbull, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessenger, White, Wilson (Simcoe West), Wiseman, Wood.

Nays—0

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): This is a bill entitled An Act respecting the establishment of an inquiry into the role of provincial taxation—

The Acting Speaker: Dispense?

Hon Evelyn Gigantes (Minister of Housing): No.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: —regulatory and labour policies in the bankruptcies and insolvencies of selected Ontario companies for the period from the 6th day of September, 1990 until the end of March, 1992 including:

A & B Office Equipment Leasing Co Ltd—

The Acting Speaker: Dispense? Dispense.

Would the honourable member for York Mills have a few introductory messages?

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for York Mills has the floor.

Mr Turnbull: The importance of this bill is to examine the circumstance as to why all of these companies have gone bankrupt since this government has been in power. They have a lot to answer for, and indeed this bill will go a long way to looking into and clarifying that.

The Acting Speaker: It now being well past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 of the clock.

The House adjourned at 1822.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
35	1318	2	16	this Legislature, because, you see, it's been in opposition for almost the entire 125 years of this Legislature.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Haget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, - Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Winninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

Government agencies/Organismes gouvernementaux

Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaitre, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdoch, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

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Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Wednesday 17 June 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Wednesday 17 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 17 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

COLBORNE CHRONICLE

Mrs Joan M. Fawcett (Northumberland): In the village of Colborne, where I live, we have the good fortune to have a community newspaper, the Colborne Chronicle. This weekly newspaper provides the residents of Colborne, the township of Cramahe and the surrounding area with an informative and sometimes provocative account of the latest happenings in the area.

You might say, well, so what? How is the Colborne Chronicle any different than any other community weekly newspaper? The difference is clear. The Colborne Chronicle has just been recognized again by the Canadian Community Newspapers Association in its nationwide general excellence competition. The Chronicle received first-place honours for the best overall newspaper category and for the best front page category. As well, the Chronicle placed second in the best editorial page category.

In large part the persons responsible for this national recognition are the editor, Eileen Argyris, and her assistant, Scott Sheridan. No matter what is going on in the community, Eileen is there with her trusty camera and notepad. Her insightful editorials are always articulated clearly and are very thought provoking.

Last year at this time I rose in the House to recognize the Colborne Chronicle's second-place finish in the Canadian Community Newspapers Association's national awards. But, as evidenced by the first-place honours this year, and typified by the editor, Eileen Argyris, this is obviously the little newspaper that could and did.

I would ask all members to join me in congratulating editor Eileen Argyris, her assistant and the paper's owners, Northumberland Publishers, for producing and publishing this national award-winning community weekly, the Colborne Chronicle.

REVIEW OF HOSPITALS

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): In recent weeks, several groups and individuals have contacted me and expressed their concern with the changes being proposed by the government to the Public Hospitals Act and the integrity of the consultation process into the act.

There is great concern that the proposed changes are a done deal and that Jack Layton's mandate is to drive the consultation process towards a predetermined conclusion. Some of the concerns I am hearing include:

1. The Wessenger panel has too narrow a focus and should consider the steering committee report on the Public Hospitals Act.

2. The government is trying to push through its changes and that the time frame for public consultations to amend this extremely important act is far too short.

3. Consultation meetings are not being held in enough locations across Ontario, and rural Ontario is being ignored.

4. Catholic hospitals feel their future existence is jeopardized by the proposed changes to governance of hospitals and that the desire to democratize hospital boards is simply a ploy by the government to put its philosophical stamp on hospitals.

I urge the Minister of Health to put the brakes to Jack Layton's joyride and to embark immediately upon a public consultation process that is meaningful, thorough and sensitive to the needs of Ontario's hospitals and the communities they serve.

TAXATION

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): Yesterday was tax revolt day. I was worried that opposition and the third party members would get hurt tripping over each other to rally outside with the very taxpayers their parties have been hosing down for many years.

It reminds me that the Leader of the Opposition mailed me her Leader's Report. She says, "Bob Rae should come clean with taxpayers of this province." Before the opposition members lift the great shackles off the taxpayers, let me remind them:

Treasurer Bob Nixon in his budget speech of April 1990 announced Ontario would have a balanced budget for the second consecutive year and there would be a \$30-million surplus. By June that surplus had been revised from \$30 million to \$23 million. Immediately following the 1990 election, Mr Nixon announced, around September 13, there was no longer a surplus. In fact Mr Nixon told us there would be a deficit of over \$700 million. At the end of September, when the second quarter finances were released, we knew the deficit was \$2,472 million. Guess how the Liberal Treasurer explained this: He told the media the change was because the economy was not performing as well as predicted. Oops, a little mistake in addition.

The Leader's Report says, "Lyn McLeod and the Ontario Liberal Party believe Ontario needs a budget with no new taxes." The Liberal administration brought in more than 30 new taxes. I'd love to go over them. The reply card of the opposition leader has a checkoff box. It says, "Please keep me on your mailing list." Well, please keep me on your mailing list, because when your party starts to come clean with the taxpayers, I want to be the first to know.

EVENTS IN CORNWALL

Mr John C. Cleary (Cornwall): I am delighted to advise members that the Cornwall area is hosting a number of exciting cultural events this summer.

First, I would like to offer my best wishes to all the francophones in my riding and throughout Ontario as they celebrate French Week.

Second, members should know that for the 10th year in a row the multicultural festival showcases the food and

entertainment of Canadians of diverse cultures. The Best of all Worlds will be on display on Sunday, June 28.

Finally, the seventh annual Worldfest/Festimonde '92 is shaping up to be a dynamic cultural festival with participants from France, Greece, Great Britain, Italy, Mexico, Georgia and El Salvador. This spectacular summer attraction will run from July 9 to July 12.

Despite funding cutbacks to each of these three events, this year's festivities will go forward as a result of the hard work and support of the service clubs, businesses and individuals in my community. I would like to invite all members of the House to visit the Cornwall area in the weeks to come to share in the unique experience each has to offer.

TIRE RECYCLING

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): Today I would like to advise the House of an initiative engineered by Gary Shaw, manager of the Grey county highways department, which makes my riding a world leader in the field of rubberized asphalt surfacing.

With the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment, Grey's highways committee engineered a very exciting project which creates a solution to the environmental problem of used tires in our landfill sites.

As members will remember from the Hagersville fire, used tires present a severe potential danger. Now, with Grey county leading the way, these tires can be put to positive use by processing them and mixing them with asphalt to create a hot mix surface for roads.

This surface has a much higher skid resistance than conventional asphalt. It needs less sand and salt in winter and helps to reduce accidents. It produces a much more flexible pavement which should cut down cracking and increase the life of the road. It also reduces the aggregate levels needed in hot mix at a time when this source is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain.

I am proud that Grey won an award from the Recycling Council of Ontario for its work on this project, and even prouder that the county has won widespread recognition. In fact the United States now requires all federally funded highways to use a percentage of rubberized asphalt in their roads.

I would ask the Minister of the Environment to continue her support for projects like this and would urge her to encourage other counties and municipalities to follow Grey county's lead.

1340

COMMUNITY OF WHITEVALE

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): Today the village of Whitevale is facing yet another challenge in its effort to survive. Whitevale is a tiny hamlet located in the north part of my riding.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Stop the clock. The member for Durham West.

Mr Wiseman: I don't think most of the members in this House realize that this quiet rural village, however vociferous it may be, is made up of only 67 families. I also don't think the members realize just what this community

has gone through in the last 20 years. I have always understood, but it became very apparent to me in the letter I received from a Whitevale resident. In this letter he spoke of how, after they moved to Whitevale when his son was only one year old, the awesome power of big government crushed their lives and impacted their family for ever.

In this letter the author takes the reader through a chronology of events that his child has seen through his lifetime, including the expropriation of 42,000 acres of land by both the federal and provincial governments. These events of 20 years ago have left a tremendous scar on the people of this community. The children of this area saw many of their friends move away, as the expropriation was so massive. They saw their schools closed down. The children of this time remember a childhood of rallies and demonstrations.

The Liberal government's proposal to dump 6.6 million tonnes of Metropolitan garbage on this heritage village without regard for the impact it would have was just another insult and injustice being put on these families. Now they are threatened once again with seven candidate landfill sites circling their village. This is a whole new generation of children. These children are learning about governments in a way few children do.

INVESTMENT FUND

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): I have received from many of my constituents letters on a very important subject and I hope the government is listening.

One says: "I am writing to express my concerns regarding the government's proposed Ontario Investment Fund Act. As a member of the Ontario municipal employee retirement system, I rely heavily on the performance of the plan to provide me with a secure pension that will see me through my retirement. I am appalled to learn that my provincial government is planning a scheme that could very well affect the security of my retirement savings."

"I am strongly opposed to the introduction of another program that would place our pension contributions at risk. My retirement and pension savings are sacred assets to not only myself but my family as well. I have no intention of standing back and watching any government tell us how that money is to be invested. Those currently charged with this responsibility are doing a fine job, thank you, and I for one do not have any confidence in the government's ability to provide me with the same level of security. In addition, our pension plan already invests heavily in the Ontario economy, however these investments are directed to secure and viable sources."

Another says: "OMERS already makes a significant contribution to both the Ontario and Canadian economies by investing soundly and wisely in many diverse industries."

"The OMERS pension plan has indicated that it is not interested in participating in the Ontario investment fund. I want the OMERS plan to remain free to invest where it can obtain the highest returns on my pension dollars."

I hope the government is listening.

TAX REDUCTION

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): My statement is for the Treasurer. Treasurer, the people of Ontario are suffering because of your government's tax, spend and borrow approach to fiscal management. Our economy is battered by high taxation, high unemployment and low productivity.

TRW Vehicle Safety Systems in Penetanguishene is laying off 166 employees effective June 26. Mitsubishi Electric Corp of Midland is laying off 36 employees. These are but two examples of an economy that is reeling, job creators that are under siege, taxpaying families that are deprived of hope and opportunity and the least fortunate in our society who are exposed to untold hardship.

Back in 1982 an Ontario Treasurer reduced the provincial sales tax on automobiles and appliances in an effort to stimulate the economy, and it worked. Consumers began to spend money. Sales increased. Jobs were created or were retained. Businesses expanded. It was certainly a welcome boost and relief to taxpayers, consumers, workers and businesses in Ontario.

I would urge you, Mr Treasurer, to reduce the provincial sales tax immediately on such manufactured goods as automobiles, refrigerators, stoves and television sets, to name but a few, by 3%. This would stimulate Ontario's economy at a time that is very difficult for the people of Ontario. It worked in 1982 and I believe it will work again today, 10 years later.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): I rise today to comment on our government's initiatives in regard to the Ontario Labour Relations Act. For my constituency, these changes are coming at a most crucial time. I've been a union person all my life and I am proud to represent the working men and women of Cochrane North who have supported the union movement for a long, long time.

I have received over 600 letters supporting the OLRA amendments. The people of Cochrane North are waiting for the passage of these amendments, which will ensure the right to organize, the speedy resolution of conflict between management and labour and therefore a fair and honest workplace for the workers.

In the next few days, when we debate this legislation, I would like every member of Parliament to remember the history of the union movement within this province. During debate, it is easy to see who in this House supports workers and the union movement and who is for profit, no matter what the cost. I truly believe that with the proposed amendments to the OLRA this province will have one of the best tools for both workers and management that can be found anywhere in Canada.

MEMBER'S ANNIVERSARY

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I know you will find it in order that we congratulate one of the members of our caucus, Mr John Cleary, and his spouse, Elizabeth, on the occasion of their 40th anniversary, which will be held this weekend coming.

I thought it would be only fitting that on the occasion of the celebration of his anniversary the New Democrats will be celebrating the end of their annual meeting, and perhaps we could get something at their annual conference which could also be added to the long string of congratulations to both John and Elizabeth, for whom we all have great affection.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): While the point of order to which the honourable member refers is not in the standing orders, how could such a joyous occasion be out of order? Congratulations of the entire House to the member for Cornwall.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I rise on a point of order under standing order 95(d). The other day I requested some information on this, and it has to do with order paper question 382 in my name:

"Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide the flight plans, including passenger lists, and the costs incurred for all trips taken by Ministry of Natural Resources aircraft from October 1990 to present. June 1, 1992."

In my understanding, under 95(d) it states, "The minister shall answer such written questions within 14 calendar days unless he or she indicates that more time is required because the answer will be costly or time-consuming or that he or she declines to answer, in which case a notation shall be made on the Orders and Notices paper following the question indicating that the minister has made an interim answer, the approximate date that the information will be available, or that the minister has declined to answer, as the case may be."

That 14 days called for under section 95(d) of our rules has passed by some time. I'm informed that while indeed it may be a valid point of order, there doesn't seem to be any remedy I can access. I'd like some advice from you as to what process I should follow to ask the minister to deliver the information that was properly and duly submitted by my office in the proper fashion.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Mississauga West, he indeed, first, has a valid point of order. Second, his observation is accurate as well. Although the standing orders prescribe that there shall be a response unless there are undue costs or some other hardship incurred, there is no sanction when that particular standing order is not complied with.

I understand fully the member's concern. It leaves the Speaker in a very difficult situation in that there is no sanction the Speaker can apply. The only thing I can say to the member is that because he has brought it to the attention of the House, he has by doing so also brought it to the attention of the minister affected, and one hopes that might help prompt a more speedy reply. But I appreciate his bringing it to my attention.

1350

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Briefly on that point, Mr Speaker, I understand there is nothing written in our

standing orders with respect to replying to order paper questions, but it is my view that while there's nothing that says what happens if 14 days elapse and there is no answer, under the common law rules of this place there is in fact ample authority for other measures to be taken if there is a wilful attempt made to not deal with the standing orders; in other words, to wilfully not comply.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Execution?

Mr Elston: The Premier has just suggested execution. That was part of the history of our parliaments in the very oldest days, because they were actually seen to have been courts which could levy fines and punishments of imprisonment and otherwise. That has gone now to the issue of contempt, and for me, I am prepared to look more fully into the issue of whether the minister is showing contempt for this place by refusing to answer this particular question, and perhaps others. That would therefore allow me to raise the question with you only as to whether you have properly turned your mind to the fact that contempt really does exist in the most offensive cases. I am not suggesting it in this matter, but perhaps that ultimately is the remedy and is provided under the long-standing history of this institution.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): On the same point of order, Mr Speaker, let me make clear to the members of the House that there was certainly no attempt on my part to avoid answering the question. As a matter of fact, I signed it just yesterday or the day before. The only reason it has taken as long as it has is the fact that I was absent from the House, as you will know, Mr Speaker, over extended periods of time during the negotiations on the Constitution with the Right Honourable Joe Clark and representatives of the other provinces and the aboriginal organizations. I recognize my obligations as a minister to respond to the questions of the members of the House and will do everything in my power to comply within the appropriate time.

The Speaker: I appreciate the response by the Minister of Natural Resources.

To the member for Bruce on the larger question, he identifies two particular aspects, one of which is the concept of contempt, which of course includes more than not replying to questions that are tabled. The ruling I just delivered is one which is quite consistent with the practice of this House.

I offer two observations. First, I am pleased to review the situation he describes. I appreciate receiving advice from any member of the assembly with respect to that. Second, the member, or other members, may wish to focus attention on this particular aspect of our standing orders. If there is a time when a committee of the assembly is studying rule changes, perhaps that's something it may wish to consider. I appreciate the concern which is raised, one which has been raised on many occasions in this chamber by various members of the opposition.

It is time for oral questions and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order under standing order 95(d). On April 9, 1992, I tabled Orders and Notices paper question 299, which reads as follows:

"Inquiry of the ministry: Would the Chair of Management Board provide the following information on a ministry-by-ministry basis for the years 1987-92: (i) employment equity plans outlining the numerical goals or targets for aboriginal persons; (ii) the number of aboriginal people employed by the Ontario public service; (iii) the number of aboriginal women employed by the Ontario public service."

On April 9, 1992, I received an interim answer, which was tabled May 27, 1992, with an approximate date information would be available, on June 5, 1992.

Mr Speaker, it is your responsibility to ensure that the standing orders of this House are complied with. The government has shown some disrespect for the standing orders by not answering this question in total; I appreciate that an interim answer was received. I ask, Mr Speaker, that you take the necessary steps to enforce the standing orders of this assembly.

The Speaker: To the member for S-D-G & East Grenville, who may not have been here a bit earlier when I ruled on this identical matter raised by another member, I trust that response will be sufficient.

Earlier, the Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to compliment the Speaker on his patience; I now return the compliment and recognize her to start her questions.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): Mr Speaker, I too rise on a point of order under standing order 95(d). On April 7, 1992, I tabled an order paper question that reads as follows: "Would the Minister of the Environment provide the names, locations and remaining capacity, for each of the landfills listed in response to question j20-10, (January 20, 1992) asked during the committee hearings"—referring to the standing committee on social development committee hearings—"associated with Bill 143. The information would ideally be provided in the same format as question j-20-10 was responded to."

Mr Speaker, I too feel that as a member of the assembly I have a right to have this information to exercise my job, and certainly my role as critic for the Minister of the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment. You well know of course that one of your responsibilities as Chair is to ensure that the rights of the minority are protected, and indeed the rules. The government has again shown, I think, in this case disregard for the rights of myself as a member and the rights of the minority. I ask you, sir, to review this particular matter that I raise before you today in terms of standing order 95(d) and take the necessary steps to ensure this particular question is responded to.

The Speaker: The member may not have been in the chamber at an earlier moment when I responded to his colleague from Mississauga West. I direct his attention to the ruling I made at that time. I appreciate his bringing this matter to my attention.

Again we turn to the Leader of the Opposition for her first question.

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): On a very special point of order, Mr Speaker: Because of the fact that a young student was killed in northern Ontario, I would have thought the Minister of Natural Resources would have made a statement in this Legislature to bring us up to date on that very serious happening in northern Ontario.

The Speaker: While it's not a point of order, it's obviously a serious matter the member may wish to consider for question period, which we are now about to begin, I trust.

I again recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the Premier. I would like to return to an issue which seems to have caused some confusion for the Premier in the past. It is a fact that on July 1 the provincial government will start taking more personal income taxes from Ontarians, in line with his April budget.

According to the Treasurer, if you make \$10,000 a year you will pay \$10 more in provincial income tax. At \$20,000 the province is taking an extra \$45. In fact, the government's own figures show that at every income level the province is taking away more in personal income taxes from single income earners.

Can the Premier now tell this House whether it is indeed correct, as our critic has repeatedly stated in interpreting this government's budget, that every single income earner making more than \$10,000 will pay more in Ontario personal income tax starting July 1?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, the answer to that question would depend on whether the person was a senior or not. That's a factor which has to be taken into account.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Oh, yes.

Hon Mr Rae: I continue to be heckled by the member for St Catharines. If he'll simply allow me to answer the question, the answer is that it does depend on that factor. With respect to 1993, the net impact with respect to federal and provincial income taxes is that there would be no net increases for that year for the vast majority of taxpayers in the province.

You also have to consider that, for married people with dependants, the fact is that the people of this province will be paying less overall when you take into consideration the federal reduction, which we have to do in order to deal with the impact of the federal cuts in transfers, which I would remind the honourable member are worth \$1,700 per taxpayer in the province of Ontario.

1400

Mrs McLeod: The Premier continues to say simply that taxes are not going up for Ontarians if he includes the federal surtax reduction in his mathematics. For example, as the Premier has indicated, if you earn \$20,000, the federal government wants to give you \$45 back in 1993. But instead, this government is taking back that \$45 in extra taxes. If the NDP government had not increased its taxes

in the April budget every low-income Ontarian would have more money in his or her wallet. They would not be paying the same amount of taxes that the Premier insists, but would be paying less to the government.

Is it not ironic that this government continues to use Brian Mulroney's tax break to offset its own tax increases on the working poor? I wonder if the Premier can tell this House why he will not let low-income Ontarians enjoy the full benefit of the federal tax reduction instead of taking it all away through higher personal income taxes in Ontario.

Hon Mr Rae: Let's put this in some perspective for the honourable member. Let's recognize, first of all, that the single person with \$10,000, if the person is not a senior—one has to take that into account; if you are a senior, the level of tax credit that's been provided by this government provides for an increase in the amount of the tax credit, the net tax for people who are on a lower-income basis. So those people who are over 65 have in fact been given a net increase in their income and a decrease in their effective taxation as a result of the measures that were announced by the Treasurer in his budget.

The leader of the Liberal Party is behaving as Liberals always do in opposition, from my experience: She wants to have it every possible way.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: She takes no account of the impact of the reduction in the transfer payment from the federal government to this province with respect to critical programs including medicare, including social assistance, including basic programs, which is costing individual taxpayers \$1,700 per taxpayer per annum in this province, just for one year alone.

The member for Bruce may decide to laugh; he may find it funny. I don't think it is funny that the federal government has cut us to that extent.

The Speaker: Would the Premier conclude his response, please.

Hon Mr Rae: Therefore we have an obligation. The honourable member asks, why has there been a tax increase? The reason is because we have to pay for programs. Everybody knows that. The federal government doesn't know that. The Tories don't know that. The Liberals, apparently, now that they're in opposition, have forgotten that basic message, which was a very clear message which we got from the former Treasurer time and time again. I can tell the honourable member that we have no intention of avoiding the reality that programs have to be paid for and—

The Speaker: Could the Premier please conclude his response.

Hon Mr Rae: —the income tax system has to be made fair in order to allow that to happen.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier reminds me of an old childhood game where you're the last person in the middle in a game of dodgeball.

I'm not talking about seniors. I'm talking about income earners, income earners earning the mighty income of

\$10,000 a year. I'm talking about income earners who are below the poverty line. This government and this Premier have talked a very good line about protecting the poor, but as on so many other issues, the words and the music simply don't match.

This is the same Premier who, when he was in opposition, asked of another minister in another debate, "How much money is this government saving on the backs of these poor people?" Can the Premier simply tell this House how much money taxing Ontario's poor will raise for his government? Does it really make such a difference, and in fact is this government not simply taxing the poor to make up for its own financial mismanagement?

Hon Mr Rae: I just can't accept any of the premises or assumptions of the member's question. Let's look at the facts; let's consider the facts. Perhaps the honourable member can tell us whether she's admitting or denying the impact of the federal cuts to this province with respect to programs that are basic for poor people and for middle-income people in Ontario. If she's denying that reality, let her stand in her place and say that doesn't matter, doesn't make any difference; if she's denying that a family of four earning \$25,000 will have a net change, when you take into account the provincial and federal changes, of \$95.

We're entitled to take account of the federal cuts because we've certainly felt the impact of the federal cuts on the spending side. If you don't know that, you don't know anything about how the fiscal work of this province operates.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The Leader of the Opposition with her second question.

LANDFILL SITES

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Again my question is for the Premier, and again I want to return to a question that seems to us now to strike at the heart of the Premier's personal integrity.

Yesterday I asked this Premier a question about his past promises. The Premier refused to answer that question. This Premier came to office promising to create a greater sense of integrity in the work of government, yet time and time again we have seen this Premier refuse to be held accountable for his own statements.

He has even denied, on the issue of waste management in the greater Toronto area, that his government has any responsibility for decisions about the landfill site choices. This Premier must accept some, if not all, of the responsibility for raising the expectations of the citizens of Whitevale and the Rouge. This Premier used to call such actions "lying." He said that when a politician promises one thing during an election and then does something different in power, it is a lie.

Our question still stands, and it is a question directly to the Premier: How do you reconcile the promises you made to the people of Whitevale and the Rouge Valley during a campaign and the clear retreat of your government from those promises?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): As this issue clearly falls within the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment, I'm going to refer the question to the Minister of the Environment.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): I simply point out to the Leader of the Opposition again that she is quite wrong in her question and in the premise of her question, and that the screening criteria being used by the Interim Waste Authority screen out very clearly the Rouge River Valley—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Would the minister take her seat.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Minister of the Environment.

Hon Mrs Grier: I was pointing out the criteria of the Interim Waste Authority, which are that the portion of the Rouge River Valley where the provincial cabinet has declared a park is not a site.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

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Mrs McLeod: I intend to continue to direct questions that relate very specifically to statements the Premier has made to the Premier, even though he refuses to answer the questions.

I would like in my supplementary to read from an NDP news release dated August 7, 1990, entitled "Farm Land is Garbage Land to Liberals." The quote is: "Sprawling developments aren't the only threat to farm land. So are landfill sites." The release continues, "New Democrats say we've got to get tough on protecting irreplaceable farm land." Two years ago the Premier feigned dismay at our disappearing farm land. Can he tell us today why his government's Interim Waste Authority was not instructed to exempt publicly owned farm land from the possibility of becoming host to a landfill site?

Hon Mrs Grier: Mr Speaker, I would merely refer the Leader of the Opposition again to the criteria used by the Interim Waste Authority, criteria that have been consulted upon widely with the public and which in fact screen out specialty crop areas and screen out class 1 to 3 agricultural soils as potential uses for landfill sites in the GTA.

Mrs McLeod: The reality is that in the criteria given to the Interim Waste Authority, publicly owned farm land in classes 1, 2 or 3 was not exempted from being considered as a host for landfill sites.

I would take the Premier and his minister back to another day when he made his great commitment to preserving the agricultural land of this province. On this particular occasion the Premier, then Leader of the Opposition, was standing at a microphone with the wheat and the corn fields blowing in the background at Whitevale, and he told the residents, "That land is some of the best farm land around." In fact, Bob Rae defied the former Premier to stand in this place and give a speech on protecting farm land and see how much credibility he had. Now the community of

Whitevale is questioning how much credibility the man who spoke those words has.

Mr Speaker, if Whitevale should not have been considered for a landfill site in 1990 because, and I quote, "It is prime food land," why two years later is it on the list not once, but seven times?

Hon Mrs Grier: The Leader of the Opposition conveniently forgets that under her government the land around Whitevale was not being considered. It was being designated—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the minister take her seat for a minute.

Interjections.

The Speaker: I ask members again, although these are difficult situations, if they would try to use temperate language.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

Mrs Elizabeth Witmer (Waterloo North): Mr Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Last November I introduced a bill requiring unions to hold secret ballot votes for certification for strikes and for collective agreement ratification. Today I intend to reintroduce this bill because I strongly believe that if we are to have fairness and equality, as the minister himself has indicated he desires, all workers in this province should have the right to a free and democratic vote. Workers should have the right to decide for themselves, free of any interference or intimidation from any source, whether or not to have a union represent them, to accept a contract or to go on strike. Obviously, a secret ballot vote is the only fair way of allowing them to do so.

Minister, will you explain why you continue to deny the workers of this province the right to a secret ballot vote? Why will you not make the changes to ensure that the individual rights of each worker are not only preserved but protected?

Hon Bob Mackenzie (Minister of Labour): Mr Speaker, regardless of what my position might be—and I'm not sure it's stated clearly by the member across the way—I simply want to say that I haven't denied workers the right to a free vote. I haven't been asked for a free vote by a worker yet in the province of Ontario.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Supplementary, the member for Waterloo North.

Mrs Witmer: Minister, it's unfortunate that the individual workers throughout this province have not seen fit to approach you on this issue. I can assure you I have received phone calls and I have received letters on this issue asking for protection. I can also tell you there were many groups that made representation to you on this issue of individual rights during the consultation process.

They included the Human Resources Professionals Association of Ontario which told you: "These proposals seriously undermine employees' civil liberties. The right to

change one's mind and the right of an interested party to oppose and to present a case against a party applying for a statutory right are basic civil liberties which must be protected." I go on with the quote, "The perceived good of greater unionization does not justify infringing employees' civil liberties."

Minister, I agree with the comments you made to me on June 9, 1992, when I asked you a question. I believe that workers must have some input into the decisions that directly affect them and I ask you to give your commitment today to amend your bill to ensure that the democratic rights of all workers are protected through the provision of a secret ballot vote.

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I want to give the member one assurance: There is nothing in the OLRA legislation that's before this House that denies the individual rights of workers; indeed, it enhances them.

Mrs Witmer: It's difficult to take your consultation process seriously when you refuse to accept any new agenda item that was not part of the union-leader-driven agenda that was originally put forward. Not only are you not allowing a secret ballot vote, you are in fact proposing in the legislation to take away an individual's right to change his or her mind by eliminating petitions and the right of an individual to cross a picket line if there is financial hardship.

Minister, "through consultation" implies listening to the views of all the parties in this province. If you really listened, why is the secret ballot provision still missing from your bill?

Hon Mr Mackenzie: I keep reminding the member across the way that the legislation that she's complaining about came from a Tory government a good many years ago and no effort was ever made by it to change that. It seems to me that the legislative changes we're making are trying to update that very piece of legislation they didn't consider important enough to deal with in the 42 years they were in power.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Today is the 20th anniversary of Watergate and how fitting it is that we can recognize it here in Ontario with what is now going to be called Dumpgate. As Mr Richard Nixon never admitted any responsibility for the causes of Watergate, we now have a Minister of the Environment who accepts no responsibility for what's going on in the greater Toronto area.

Ruth Grier, the Minister of the Environment, has denied any responsibility for the Interim Waste Authority. She's denied breaking promises to protect green spaces. She's denied responsibility to keep the Premier's promise to have a full environmental assessment for Keele Valley landfill site. She has denied the shipment of waste out of the greater Toronto area. She's denied York, Durham and Peel the right to a fair evaluation under landfill site criteria. Now the Interim Waste Authority has chosen 57 sites based on evaluation of least impact in key areas.

According to the criteria, all the sites were allegedly selected where there was least displacement and disruption to residents, communities, natural features, historical areas and farm land. As Minister of Agriculture and Food you have a responsibility to protect Ontario's farm land. What have you done to protect prime agricultural land from being a dump?

1420

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): The member's preamble mentioned this: The Ministry of the Environment is doing an excellent job of trying to save the environment and find a suitable site for landfill sites.

In terms of the final question about preserving farm land, the member should know that I currently have a group, a task force, which is travelling around the province at this very time looking at different methods of how, as a government, we can preserve farm land. We're looking at various instruments we can use and employ and strengthen.

In fact, at the moment we have the Food Land Guidelines, which are just that—guidelines—and we would like to bring something that will strengthen legislation and regulations so that we can preserve the best farm land for agriculture, which is very important to this government.

Mr David Tilson (Dufferin-Peel): Supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture and Food: You talk about your Food Land Guidelines. What she's doing is replacing your guidelines with dumps. The question was, what are you doing?

In my riding of Dufferin-Peel, in the town of Caledon specifically, there are going to be 15 potential dump sites. Every one of those sites is on a working farm today, every last one of them. Some of these sites are even on century farms which have been in the same farming family for more than 100 years.

Mr Minister, I'd like to read to you a statement from your notorious Agenda for People, specifically page 8, which I'm sure all of you over there are trying to forget. It says you would "preserve farm land: The agricultural land base in Ontario is quickly shrinking at the hands of a Liberal government which refuses to rein in the land developers. We propose...to slow the conversion of valuable farm land to other uses, and would...prevent the conversion of classes 1 to 3 farm land to non-farm uses."

In your planning for this province, Mr Minister, all you have done differently than the Liberal government is to replace developments with dumps. That's all you've done. Why are you breaking your promise made in the Agenda for People? Why are you converting prime agricultural farm land into dumps?

Hon Mr Buchanan: We are not and I am not converting farm land into dump sites. I would like to point out to the honourable member a couple of things we've done at Agriculture and Food. A little over a year ago his caucus members criticized me for defending some farm land down in the Ottawa region where we spent considerable amounts of taxpayers' money to preserve agricultural lands. I remember being criticized for going to the Ontario

Municipal Board to try and preserve farm land in the Ottawa—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Minister.

Hon Mr Buchanan: In another scenario, for the member down in the Niagara region, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and myself are opposing severances of tender fruit land to build houses on because we believe that fruit land is very valuable and should be preserved for agriculture.

In terms of the current issue that seems to be coming back to the House every day in terms of finding dump sites, we have an Interim Waste Authority, which is an arm's-length agency that's looking for sites, looking at all suitable sites. We obviously are going to have some input into that in terms of the agricultural lands preservation. But I have a lot of faith in that agency and that we will come up with a suitable site for the GTA waste.

Mr Tilson: The town of Caledon is just going to be thrilled to hear that you think 15 sites in farm land are prime sites for a dump. They're just going to be thrilled.

I want to refer you to the Interim Waste Authority document—I don't know whether the Minister of the Environment has referred that to you—and to the long list of candidate sites which shows, if you read that document, every last one of the 15 sites in the town of Caledon is on valuable, usable, protected farm land. I'd like you to read that if you haven't.

How can you possibly believe that putting a dump in Caledon will stop the shrinkage of Ontario's agricultural base, as you promised in your Agenda for People? How can you possibly believe that? I'm going to ask the question again: How could you in all good conscience replace a century farm with a dump?

Hon Mr Buchanan: There are a couple of points in the preamble again that I'd like to clarify. The member talks about 15 sites as if those 15 sites were all going to be dumps—if in fact any of those sites are selected in the final analysis—and we're talking about rural lands or farm land. Let's be clear that they're looking for one site in that area and let's not get everyone who might be part of the 15 sites nervous and on edge about this.

We at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, I feel very passionately, need to do as much as we can to preserve good farm land. We are undertaking a review process to come up with not new guidelines but some new regulations in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. In fact, farm land is very important to this government. We also have to use the Interim Waste Authority as an agency that is going to find some suitable site for garbage, because that also is going to be a crisis in the greater Toronto area and we have to look at certain tradeoffs. That's what we're trying to do.

INVESTIGATION INTO RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): My question is to the Premier, who used to be a defender of the rights of the opposition and a proponent of civil liberties in this province, a reputation which in my view was well earned in years gone by.

The Premier will recall that in the fall of this year his government sent the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate members of the opposition, specifically the member for Bruce and the member for Halton North, and the public servants because information had come from the public service to members of the opposition, valuable information that is helpful to the public to make its decisions on the issues of the day.

Could the Premier tell us what the results of his investigations of members of the opposition and the public service are, and could he tell us if he has succeeded in intimidating the civil service into not providing any further information to the opposition or the news media?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The premise of the member's question is quite wrong. I have never sent a police officer anywhere to do anything or to talk to anybody, nor have ever I received any such police reports of any kind whatsoever.

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): The Premier's government authorized two OPP investigations into documents that came into the hands of the opposition. You called the police in. You called the OPP in. The government called the OPP in. It was your office that sanctioned it. You can't wash your hands of this. It was you, Premier, and your government that called the police in. They had no option but to interview the opposition; it was the opposition who had those documents. You can't wash your hands of this. You authorized this.

I follow up with the question my colleague asked: Have you now seen those reports and can you tell the House how many other OPP investigations your government has authorized into activities by the opposition?

Hon Mr Rae: Let me say with respect very directly to the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, he's once again pointed his finger at me and used the word "you" on at least three occasions and referred specifically to me, as Premier, having personally authorized any interviews between the OPP and members of the opposition. That is an allegation the member has made. I want to say to the member that allegation is utterly and completely false and without any foundation whatsoever. You know it, and you know it because you've been told it several times.

I will say directly to the honourable member that I have seen no such reports, and as I've answered very clearly to the member for St Catharines, I have authorized no such questioning and have seen no such reports of any kind whatsoever, at any time, ever, period.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Lanark-Renfrew.

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Lanark-Renfrew has the floor.

1430

MINISTRY OF ENERGY^{*}HIRING

Mr Leo Jordan (Lanark-Renfrew): It has recently come to my attention that a previous Energy minister's communications assistant has been offered a rather impressive opportunity for career advancement. It appears that Miss Creighton has attained a management-level position at the policy coordination section of the Ministry of Energy. This person seems to have benefited from the NDP's express route to upper-tier management, as she is now entitled to a possible \$79,000 a year.

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Jordan: Mr Speaker, my question—

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat, please.

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: Many of the members on our side have been waiting for the Premier to answer questions for a number of days. We are halfway into the question period. I know that I and others in our party have questions to ask of him. Today, after being absent for many days, he's again leaving early. I wonder if there is any way the Premier would return to the House and be prepared to answer some of the questions we have.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. To the member for Quinte, you do not have a point of privilege but you certainly have a persuasive argument, obviously. The Premier.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): Mr Speaker, as the member for Quinte will know, there is a washroom in the lobby there which I have to use from time to time.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for Quinte.

Mr O'Neil: Having been a teacher for many years, when I had pupils who wanted to go to the washroom, they usually put their hand up.

The Speaker: Okay, the member for Lanark-Renfrew, and could you identify to whom the question is directed.

Mr Leo Jordan: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question is directed to the acting Minister of Energy, but it could involve the Premier's office.

It seems that Miss Creighton has benefited from the NDP's express route to upper-tier management. As I stated, she is now entitled to a salary of \$79,000 a year. Could the acting Minister of Energy please tell the House what Miss Creighton's specific credentials are that make her appropriate for the position, and how well did she fare among the other candidates in the competition, if in fact there was a competition?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (Acting Minister of Energy): The member's question is an interesting one, because it contains an internal contradiction. The minister does not run the competitions in the civil service in the Ministry of Energy, nor do the ministers of this government run the

competitions in any ministry. I would suggest the member's question would be more appropriately directed to those who conducted the interviews, because there was a competition. I would suggest that Miss Creighton's qualifications, along with a number of former staffers from the Tory caucus and the Liberal caucus who have joined the civil service over the course of the last couple of years, will be amply demonstrated.

Mr Jordan: Perhaps the minister has stated then that Miss Creighton has been advanced to this high-level management position at a salary of \$79,000, and would he say then that her previous work with the Premier, when he was in the opposition, had any effect on this appointment?

Hon Mr Charlton: I have to assume that the applicant in question was judged in the interview process based on her qualifications for the position in question. The member should know that the person in question in fact was already in senior management positions, both formerly in the Ministry of Energy and more laterally in my office in Financial Institutions, where she was an executive assistant.

INCINERATION

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): My question is for the minister responsible for the GTA and Minister of the Environment. Earlier this week, I asked a question of the minister about the decision that was made by this government not to allow the export of waste to Kirkland Lake. It was clear from her answer that in order for the processes to be fair and in order to look at Kirkland Lake as an option, we would have to look at every square inch of Ontario. That means all municipalities could be threatened with having to take on the problem of the greatest waste generator, Metropolitan Toronto.

That being said, there is another question being thrown about by the member for Markham and also by my constituents, the question of incineration. I know Bill 143 has removed incineration as an option for the disposal of GTA garbage. There have been implications made by the media and members opposite that this would be a wonderful solution. There seems to be the belief out there that state-of-the-art incinerators are clean and environmentally friendly and that it would be much easier to site an incinerator than it would be to site a landfill. Would the minister care to comment on this? My constituents would like to know.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): I can certainly tell him that I don't think it would be any easier to find a site for an incinerator than it would be for a landfill. But there are a lot of reasons why incinerators are not the answer to the waste management crisis we face within the GTA or anywhere else within this province. Incinerators work in direct contradiction to the 3Rs. They don't reduce, reuse or recycle. In fact, once they're built they have to be fed, and they have to be fed with the materials that are most likely to be able to be recycled.

Second, as the member says, you have to find a location for them and you also have to find a location for their ash. Ironically, the more effective your technology to reduce the amount of pollutants that are spewed out into

somebody else's backyard by the incinerator, the more toxic the ash and therefore the more difficult it is to find a landfill site for the ash.

Finally, incinerators are a great deal more expensive than landfills, both to build, because of their capital expense, and to operate on an ongoing basis. They are not compatible with a comprehensive waste management system.

1440

Mr Wiseman: My supplementary question also has to do with incineration. We had a presentation by Dr Connett before the standing committee on social development with respect to what would have to go into an incinerator. He made the point very forcefully that what would go into an incinerator is the raw material for future products and future goods. My question to the minister has to do with the waste reduction office, and perhaps she could update the House. My constituents are very concerned about recycling, reducing and reusing this material. If we could—

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): They sure are, after you sold them out. If anyone ever sold out his constituents you did.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Markham.

Mr Wiseman: My constituents perhaps have a little more sophistication than the member for Markham does. I would like to finish my comments without being interrupted rudely by the member for Markham and having those kinds of comments about my integrity being made in this House.

The Speaker: Would the member place his question.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Wiseman: My question was about the waste reduction office and the kind of—

The Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat please.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member place his question please.

Mr Wiseman: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I'd be more than pleased to place my question. My question has to do with the potential use of what is in the waste stream as a natural resource that could give this country and this province a competitive advantage by reusing resources and reusing material that will give our businesses and firms a leg up, with the opportunity to invest and to have a leading edge in world technology in this area and to give us a competitive advantage. I'd like to know and have an update on what the waste reduction office is doing in order to facilitate and help the industries of this province take advantage of that kind of business and economic advantage.

Hon Mrs Grier: The member is quite right that of course the foundation of our waste management system in this province has got to be waste reduction. This member and many of his constituents have been on the leading edge of promoting the 3Rs and in working with the waste reduction office in ways in which we can not only reach the targets that had been set by the previous government, but exceed them. I'm glad to be able to tell him that we are

indeed finding, as industries within this province become more creative and innovative in ways of reducing their waste, that not only are they saving money because they don't have to dispose of waste, but they are saving energy, they are saving resources and they are developing technologies that make them far more competitive in tough times and in good times.

The efforts of the waste reduction office, cooperatively with municipalities and with industries, are going to make a very real difference and will be very much the issue that is discussed, I know, before the Environmental Assessment Board when the question of waste management within the GTA is addressed and debated.

The Speaker: New question, the member for Mississauga West.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): It's interesting that the same minister opposed to incinerators is currently involved in building seven of them around the province for biomedical waste: just another example, but that's not my question.

ENVIRONMENTAL TAX

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): My question is to the Premier. Mr Premier, I'm in receipt of a letter to you, sir, from Frank Mechura, the president of Crown Cork and Seal Canada Inc, a company in the aluminum can business. He states in that letter that since you introduced your supposed environmental levy on canned beer, his company's shipments are down by almost 55%. They have laid off immediately 25 highly skilled workers and are facing further massive layoffs. He has asked for a meeting with you, sir, the Premier of this province—not one of your ministers but with you—to discuss the effects that this budget measure is having on his business and on the 4,000-plus people employed in this industry. To date, you have refused to meet with him and you won't even respond to his request.

May I ask the Premier, why did you not meet with the major can producers in this province, such as Crown Cork and Seal and Ball Packaging Products, or the unions involved with this matter, prior to the introduction of this tax, to deal with, analyse and explain the fallout that your tax is now having on their workers?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): First of all, the difficulty that we face in the preparation of budgets is obviously and always to do with the question of what kinds of budgetary consultations are possible in terms of detail with respect to the question of budget secrecy. That is a problem and an issue we have to deal with. The Treasurer and I have discussed this both before and after the last budget and this one, and we are always looking for ways to improve the process in such a way that we can take perhaps a more modern approach with respect to that question.

In answer to the other allegation you made again today that I have refused to meet with people, I have not refused to meet with anyone. There are two companies involved. The employees from both companies have met with the staff in my office, with the Minister of the Environment, with the Treasurer and with others. In terms of my own

schedule, I was away last week, but I have indicated a willingness to do everything I can to meet with people, and I will be doing that. I have no objection at all to meeting with people, and I'm quite happy to do so, and I've indicated that.

Mr Mahoney: Premier, I ask you to check your facts, because my facts tell me the only meeting that's taken place is between some staff in the Ministry of the Environment and a member of the United Steelworkers; that there has not been a response to the request from the president of this company at all. I believe that information is current as of this morning, so if you've been busy running around having meetings since this morning, I'd stand corrected, but I highly doubt that.

Joe Daignault of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union said on June 5 in a letter: "This is an unbelievably stupid move for a government whose stated policy was to ensure and protect the jobs of Ontario workers. Beer cans are not the problem and if sales drop off, as they will do, our members of the UFCW are going to lose their jobs."

Patrick Corcoran, UFCW plant chair at Ball Packaging, says in a letter to Don Abel, after citing layoffs, suspensions and lost sales up to 60%, "On behalf of the labour force I represent and all others affected by this proposed tax, I am appealing to you to reconsider your position on this tax implementation."

Kathy Dumouchel, chair of the levy action committee of Ball Packaging, in a three-page letter to you, Premier, on May 18 of this year, says among other things: "...35% of the returnable bottle supply is manufactured outside of this country. If it is the intent of this government for jobs to be lost to our American counterparts, then so be it. However, it does cause one to reflect deeply on where this government's loyalties lie."

Premier, you have not answered the letters, you refuse to meet with the companies affected, and you won't act to save thousands of jobs in the canning industry.

The Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary?

Mr Mahoney: What exact message do you have for Joe Daignault, Patrick Corcoran and Kathy Dumouchel about their future and the future of the workers in the UFCW and the United Steelworkers of America who have their lives tied up in this industry?

Hon Mr Rae: The member has repeated the falsehood again in the House, saying that I refused to meet with people. I have not refused to meet with people. His statement is not true. If the member is in error again when he repeats what he said the first time—

Interjection.

Hon Mr Rae: No, no, wait a minute. I'm going to get to your question. You had a long question, and I'm going to try to answer it as quickly as I can. But to be fair, I hope the member would realize that he said some things in his statement—for example, in his preamble to the second question he said it was his understanding there had been no meetings with ministers. I want to say that that understanding is incorrect. There have been meetings with the

Treasurer; there have been meetings with the Minister of the Environment.

Mr Mahoney: With an organizer of the Steelworkers, not with the people affected.

Hon Mr Rae: No, no.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Rae: There have been meetings of many different kinds, and that's a fact the record will very clearly show, and I hope the member would recognize that.

Second—and I've got a note here from my staff—we've already spoken to people earlier today. I indicated earlier this week, in terms of my staff asking, "When can we arrange a time?" that we'll arrange a time. I'm quite confident I'll be seeing them this weekend. I have no doubt about that at all.

I say to the honourable member that the changes going on overall in the beer industry are difficult changes. They involve the negotiations between the federal government and the US beer industry, they involve questions of environmental protection for the future of this province, they involve questions that relate to our obligations under the GATT, where we have some very clear GATT rulings with respect to the kinds of provisions we have in place. So these things all have to be balanced.

The intention of this government is to save as many jobs in this industry as is humanly possible. That is the intention of this government, in keeping with our environmental and other trade responsibilities. That's what we're trying to do, that's what we're trying to deal with, and that's what I would say to the workers who are involved: We are prepared to listen to them, we're prepared to look at what it is they propose, what their alternatives are, but we do have some obligations under GATT which our federal government is now negotiating, and we also have some obligations with respect to the environment which we have to deal with.

1450

POLICE COMPLAINTS

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): My question is to the Attorney General. One of my constituents believes that justice has not been served, as a result of an administrative foulup. In 1989, Mrs F filed a complaint against five Metro officers. She alleged that the officers had mistreated her after she had complained of sexual misconduct by another officer.

As a result of an administrative foulup at the Ontario police complaints commission, chaired by Clare Lewis, who forgot to tell the officers for 10 months that a complaint had been levied against them, her case was ultimately dismissed.

My constituent has lost her right to have her day in court. Why, Mr Attorney General, have you not appealed her case, and are you prepared to do so now so that justice can be done for my constituent?

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): I am not acquainted with all the details of this case and I think it would be rather unfair of me to make any remarks about it without being aware of all the details of the case. If the

member would like to provide me with the details he has, I will certainly look into it and provide him with an answer.

Mr Harnick: The case I refer to is a case that was dismissed pursuant to a decision called the Gage case. I know the Attorney General has to know what this case said, so I'm quite frankly shocked that he has no idea about a case that was widely reported in the media, referred to as the Mrs F case. I wonder if the Attorney General comes to work every day, and when he gets there, whether he reads what's going on.

Mr Attorney General, the officers facing the complaint were not given the opportunity to defend themselves and the woman who filed the complaint was never given her day in court, all as a result of administrative bungling by an administrative chairman, a chairman who is now reconvening the Race Relations and Policing Task Force, as of yesterday. He forgot for 10 months to tell somebody that a complaint had been levied against them. In Mrs F's own words, the system designed to right a wrong, wronged a right.

Now, are you prepared to take action? Are you prepared to look into this, and are you prepared to ensure that this injustice does not happen again?

Hon Mr Hampton: My answer remains as to the first question. I think it would be rather unfair of me, knowing the general details of a case, to now give an answer based upon some specifics that are alleged by the member opposite. I have indicated that I will check into the details of the case, and I will respond when I have those details. I think it would be most unfair to give an answer here, not knowing at this point all the specifics of the case.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

Mrs Irene Mathyssen (Middlesex): My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Mr Minister, in view of the decision to go ahead with the implementation of the Brant report, which includes annexation of extensive areas of agricultural land, what assurance can you give the rural residents of Middlesex, who will be annexed into the city of London, that agricultural land will be protected?

Hon David S. Cooke (Minister of Municipal Affairs): I appreciate the question from the member who, along with the other members from the London-Middlesex area, has shown a great deal of interest in this. I can tell the member that we will be tabling the legislation soon and that in the legislation there will be substantial protection of agricultural land. There will be a requirement that a new official plan be developed for the new city of London and community involvement will be guaranteed in the development of that official plan. Guidelines for the development of that official plan will be built right into the legislation, so I can assure the member that agricultural land in the new city of London will have more protection than any agricultural land in the entire province.

Mrs Mathyssen: Thank you, Minister, but the constituents of rural Middlesex have been, and are currently, extremely critical of the planning done by the city of London. In view of their concerns, how will your ministry

ensure more effective planning that takes into account environmental and agricultural concerns?

Hon Mr Cooke: Mr Speaker, I think the member will see in the legislation we table that there will be protections built right into the legislation with planning guidelines and guarantees of involvement from the community. I agree with the member that this is a vital question that people both in the city and in the county are concerned about. So is this government concerned about that. We will make sure agricultural land and environmentally sensitive areas are protected in the legislation.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Mr Hugh P. O'Neil (Quinte): Mr Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Community and Social Services, I would like to ask the question of the Premier. Mr Premier, the need for this government to provide more support to children and families has never been greater. In fact, this government's lack of attention and initiatives, combined with historically low transfer payments, has placed the children of various communities at risk.

Premier, I have received a letter from the children's aid society of the city of Belleville, which I will send over to you—the county of Hastings and the city of Trenton—who state their extreme concern regarding the current state of social services in the province and how their agency is severely hampered in its ability to provide protective services to the children not only of our area but to the rest of the province. The letter has been signed by Deb Stockton, president of CUPE Local 2197, and Kenneth S. Daley, president of the board of directors.

I would like to ask the Premier how this government intends to ensure the safety and protection of young children under the care of such agencies as our children's aid societies?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): The transfers that have been announced by this government in the education, health and community and social services fields have been, without question, the most difficult decision this government has had to take since it was sworn into office on October 1. I can only tell the honourable member that the economic and fiscal circumstances we are in have left us—I'm sure members will appreciate that it was discussed intensively around the cabinet table—with the very strong feeling that the clearest and fairest thing for us to do would be to indicate to all of our transfer partners that it was going to be very difficult for us to do any more than the 1% and 2% over the next two years with respect to our overall fiscal situation.

That is the situation we face. I can only say we are determined to work with all of our transfer partners. The minister has been doing that. We will obviously respond carefully to this letter and to others we've received. I can tell the honourable member we've received letters from and are working with the hospital sector, the education sector and the university sector. It's not an easy time, but the fact is that there really is no other choice.

Mr O'Neil: Premier, I can appreciate some of the things you're saying, but in order to survive and look after

the children, not only in our children's aid society—and it's my understanding that they have not received the 1% transfer; they've been cut back to 0.5%. They're saying, in other words, that the safety and protection of the children will have to be compromised. I'm saying, Premier, this agency that is mandated to protect children is telling the minister and you they cannot do that. Will you, Premier, reconsider spending priorities so that we can provide the needed protection for children in our area and other areas of the province?

Hon Mr Rae: Again, let me say to the honourable member that the Liberal Party today has put forward several questions, among others. But the first lot of questions has to do with the ones yesterday: How can we reduce taxation right away? The second question becomes, how do we deal with the very urgent crisis, the very real situation, you're describing—I presume the underlying thrust of your question at the end of the day is, "Let's spend more money." When you look at the reality, we would then be faced with a much larger deficit.

I can remember the member's face when the deficit figure was announced in this House in the budget in 1991; it turned several different hues. Clearly he was furious that the deficit had gone over \$9 billion in 1990-91. I would say to the honourable member he would be the first one to criticize us if we allowed ourselves to go beyond that number.

To those who say, "Change priorities," I simply want to say this in response: There is no other way than to deal with the largest ticket items in the budget, that is to say, with social services, with health care and with education. There's no easy way to do it, but it has to be done. That's why we're sticking to the 1% and 2%.

1500

VISITOR

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I would invite all members to welcome to our chamber a former member of the House who I believe has sat through the entire question period today, the former long-standing member for Algoma-Manitoulin, Mr John Lane. Welcome.

INVESTIGATION INTO RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I want to raise with you a point of privilege as Leader of the Opposition on behalf of the members of my caucus. As was noted in a question earlier today, at an earlier point two members of our caucus, the member for Bruce and the member for Halton Centre, carrying out their responsibilities as elected members of this assembly, were in fact visited by representatives of the Ontario Provincial Police for investigative reasons.

At the time we believed that was a violation of our rights and responsibilities as elected members of this assembly. It is an issue we did not take lightly at the time and I do not believe it is an issue which should be dismissed so lightly as the Premier has dismissed it today. I believe this is an issue of privilege. I would ask that the Speaker ensure

that those members at least receive the right to have some understanding of where that investigation has gone.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the Leader of the Opposition: I'm not sure if she's referring to a new incident or if this is something dealt with at an earlier time. Perhaps the leader would be kind enough to provide a few more details for me.

Mrs McLeod: I'd be happy to. The question we raised earlier today and the question I raise in my point of privilege is that those two members were in fact visited and asked about their receipt of information. As we indicated at the time, we believed that was a violation of our privileges as members of this assembly. That was not the ruling at the time. But we do believe it is an issue of privilege that, having been visited by the Ontario Provincial Police, members have a right to know what became of the investigation, whether there is a report and whether they figure in that report in any way. We've seen nothing that has come since those visits.

The Speaker: To the Leader of the Opposition: I appreciate the clarification. I'm not sure how much assistance I can be to the member and of course to those two members of her caucus. However, I am quite pleased to review the situation and if there is any area where I can be of assistance, I would be more than delighted to lend such assistance. But I will require a little bit of time to take a look at your request and see what I can do to be of assistance to you.

CORRECTION

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm correcting my own record. When I was speaking of the OPP investigation of the opposition member for Bruce, I also said the opposition member for Halton North. It should have been Halton Centre. The member for Halton Centre was investigated by the OPP at the instigation of the government.

The Speaker: Indeed a point of order.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): On a further point of order, Mr Speaker: With regard to Orders and Notices questions, on June 1 I inquired under question 383, and I will read it to you: "Inquiry of the ministry—Would the Solicitor General," who I notice is not with us at the moment, "provide the flight plans, including passenger lists and the costs incurred for all trips for all Ontario Provincial Police aircraft from October 1990 to present."

Once again under standing order 95(d) it states—the minister is with us, I appreciate that:

"The minister shall answer such written questions within 14 calendar days unless he or she indicates that more time is required because the answer will be costly or time-consuming or that he or she declines to answer, in which case a notation shall be made on the Orders and Notices paper following the question indicating that the minister has made an interim answer, the approximate date that the information will be available, or that the minister has declined to answer, as the case may be."

I appreciate that the Minister of Natural Resources informed me after my previous point of order, having had to

raise it twice in this House, that he has indeed signed at least an interim order giving a partial answer and that further answers would be forthcoming. I appreciate that; that's within the rules. The Solicitor General has not indicated that to me, and I ask, since the 14 days have expired, if you would rule on the point of order and consider what remedies I may have at my disposal.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Mississauga West: I have made the ruling on other occasions. I regret if he's not aware of the ruling and direct his attention to Hansard. Indeed by having raised it in the House, he now perhaps has a response from the Solicitor General.

Hon Allan Pilkey (Solicitor General): I am pleased to advise the member that this afternoon I have signed an interim letter as well that will be coming to him—perhaps it is already on its way—with a similar explanation that he has received from the Minister of Natural Resources. I indicate that while we are complying and will comply with the letter, I believe there will be a significant cost to the public that is not necessarily going to be fruitful, but none the less we will respond.

MOTIONS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that the House do now move to orders of the day.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Call in the members; 30-minute bell.

1537

The Speaker: Would all members resume their seats, please.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Mr Speaker, there's a leak up there.

The Speaker: We'll attend to the repair. I would ask that all members please resume their seats.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): I think there's something flying around up there, sir. There are bats in the belfry.

The Speaker: If there is some difficulty with respect to the ceiling—

Mr Sorbara: I just thought I saw something flying around up there.

The Speaker: I would be quite pleased to deal with whatever the problem is after the vote, if members would please resume their seats. Point of information?

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): The points of privilege that have been raised by the members in fact have to be heard before the question is put. Points of privilege supersede any action of the House, as the House rules call that those points be put immediately.

The Speaker: We had called for a vote, which now we are in the process of taking. We must complete—

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, is that not a point which supersedes the vote?

The Speaker: No. We must complete the vote first, before any point of privilege can be raised.

Mrs McLeod: Is that true even on a point of privilege, Mr Speaker, even though a point of privilege is a violation of the rights of members of the House?

The Speaker: Because we had determined that there would be a vote, the bells rang and, as members know, the bells can be terminated at any moment by agreement of the three whips. Hence we have commenced the vote.

Mrs McLeod: Again, Mr Speaker, obviously I as leader have a concern on behalf of my caucus about the privileges of a member of my caucus. Standing order 21(b) indicates that points of privilege have to be placed immediately. That's why I'm seeking information.

The Speaker: The Clerk informs me, as indeed I was aware, that the standing practice in this House has been to complete a vote and then entertain any points of privilege. Once you start into a voting procedure, which we did by way of five members standing, then whether that vote is held immediately or delayed by way of bell, we must complete that process before entertaining a point of procedure.

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, I did understand that in terms of rules of procedure, which I understand to be a rule of order. I questioned whether it was a similar situation for questions of privilege.

The Speaker: Yes, indeed it is.

The House divided on Mr Cooke's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 62; nays 43.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I rise because before the request for motions was given by you earlier in the day—in fact I was not one of the people who had heard it; on asking if you had done it, you advised that it had been asked for—there were several people on this side of the House who were standing in their places with respect to points of order and points of privilege, some of which have been as a result of long-standing difficulties in terms of getting information and other things from this government.

Mr Speaker, I ask you now on a point of order if you will recognize those people who have points of order and points of privilege to bring to your attention before we get to the calling of the orders of the day.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Bruce, he may know that following oral questions I entertained a number of points of order which were brought to my attention, including a repeated point of order that had been raised earlier in the day on the same matter. I listened to them, and then not knowing there was anything out of order, I moved to the next business of routine proceedings, which was to call motions, and indeed that's what I did.

I must say to the member that of course if any member believes there was something out of order about any of our procedures or something which is against the standing orders, then he or she should stand and bring that to the Speaker's attention. I must also say, though, as I have mentioned to all members in the House on previous occasions, if a member believes that he or she has a point of

privilege, the customary way of handling it is to notify the Speaker's office in advance in writing and to bring that matter to the attention of the House.

I would direct the member's attention to the distinction between points of order and points of privilege. When there is a bona fide point of privilege, then it should be raised in the appropriate traditional way. The points of order are handled in a different way, and I believe on other occasions I have drawn to the attention of the House how the member for Dufferin-Peel has brought his concerns with respect to points of privilege in the traditional way to this chamber and have praised him on the way in which that has been handled, and of course would invite all members to do that.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): Mr Speaker, I was listening very closely to what you just said with respect to a point of privilege, and I'm wondering if you can help me with that. Just last week I stood on a point of privilege with respect to a statement which was made by the government House leader. If I understand you correctly, you indicated that with respect to a point of privilege you are expecting members of this Legislature to provide that point to you in writing prior to bringing it up in this Legislature.

The question I have is that our standing orders are the rules that govern us as members. I read rule 21(a), "Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the House collectively and by the members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Assembly Act and other statutes, or by practice, precedent, usage and custom." It goes on to say in 21(b), and this is the point I make, "Whenever a matter of privilege arises"—I'll repeat that—"Whenever a matter of privilege arises, it"—meaning the privilege—"shall be taken into consideration immediately."

I am hearing you, Mr Speaker, say something as the definer of our rules. One point: The rules, in my respectful submission, are quite clear. I as a member am entitled to these rules and to abide and rely on these rules, both collectively and individually, as stated in rule 21(a). If I as a member, individually or collectively, feel that a matter of privilege has arisen—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): How can you as a member collectively feel something?

Mr Offer: I see that the Minister of Natural Resources is taking exception to this, Mr Speaker. Then I do not have the right, according to your definition, to stand—

Interjections.

Mr Offer: I'm sorry, no. I'd like to finish this point.

The Speaker: I understand what you're saying.

Mr Offer: No, I don't—

The Speaker: If the member would take his seat, I believe I can be of some assistance to him.

Indeed, the member for Mississauga North is absolutely correct, if the point that he believes is a point of privilege arises out of a proceeding. I think he will also recognize, and members will recall, that if a member believes it to be a point of privilege or order, your Speaker will listen to what it is that you have to say.

Oftentimes, when members believe it's a point of privilege and indeed it is a point of order, the Speaker will still listen to it and try to be of assistance wherever possible. I reiterate that the member is absolutely correct. If what he believes is a loss of privilege is something which has arisen from a proceeding, then indeed it's his responsibility to rise at the earliest moment.

My earlier remarks were directed to what turns out to be a point of privilege with respect to something that has occurred either in a member's office or within the precinct, or something that has arisen out of a debate in the House or any other circumstance. He is right in that regard.

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): Mr Speaker, it is precisely because of what you've just said that I rose prior to the vote being taken to ask whether a point of privilege could be heard even before the vote was taken.

The point of privilege I wished to raise on behalf of my caucus was my belief that our privileges in terms of the orders of this House be followed and to ensure that our privileges as members were then in fact maintained. A number of members of my caucus were on their feet intending and wanting to make points of order, and they were not acknowledged by the Speaker.

Mr Speaker, I made an effort, prior to moving on to the next order of business and that introduction of motion, to draw your attention to the fact that there were members of my caucus on their feet asking to make points of order who were not recognized. I believed that was not only a point of order, Mr Speaker; I believed it was a point of privilege. I think in both instances we need a further ruling from you.

The Speaker: To the Leader of the Opposition, if there are points of order or privilege which members wish to bring to the Speaker's attention, of course I am more than pleased to listen to them and try to be of assistance. If members were inadvertently overlooked, then I apologize for that, and at the appropriate, most convenient moment, if members feel, either today or on any other occasion, that they have points they need to bring to my attention, I'm here to listen to them and will try to be of assistance to the member and of course to the entire House.

On a point of privilege, the member for York Centre.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Mr Speaker—

1550

Mrs McLeod: If members bring points of order, I appreciate the fact that you are prepared to acknowledge them. It's quite clear, Mr Speaker, that we are absolutely dependent on the impartiality of the Chair in enforcing the rules of order of this House and it's for that reason we've asked you to take our points very seriously today.

Further to that, Mr Speaker, I would ask whether you would review the determination you made earlier about whether a point of privilege should normally be raised outside of the House. It really is my understanding that points of privilege relating to the rights and responsibilities of the members have to be raised immediately, just as you later said, in order to be able to be responded to.

The Speaker: If it would be of assistance to any or all of the members, I'm pleased to provide something that would clarify. As members even of long-standing in this House will know, there is often confusion about the distinction between points of order and points of privilege, and until occupying this position I must confess that I too was often confused by the distinction. I fully appreciate the member's difficulty and I will attempt to provide some clarification for all.

The member for York Centre.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): Mr Speaker, I'm rising pursuant to the standing orders on a matter of privilege and, in accordance with the standing orders, bring it to your attention immediately upon its coming to my attention. I've been given a copy of a communication from the Ontario New Democratic Party which alleges that members of my own caucus and members of the Progressive Conservative caucus are involved in what amounts to criminal activity. Therefore, sir, I'm going to have to read this document into the record and have you make a judgement on it. It reads:

"Dear Friends:

"Ontario is your province, and mine.

"It belongs to people like us, people who work here, raise our families here, pay taxes here, and vote here.

"But some big business lobbies are trying to take our province away from us.

"You and I, and many other Ontarians, elected an NDP government on September 6, 1990. We gave Bob Rae and his team a mandate to bring commitment back to politics and fairness back to government."

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Mr Sorbara: "We wanted a new, better Ontario.

"The old élites, those big business leaders, who keep the Liberals and the Tories in their back pocket, don't want the same things as you and me."

Interjections.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, I will bring back to you—

The Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, I'm going to repeat that:

"The old élites, those big business leaders, who keep the Liberals and the Tories in their back pocket, don't want the same things as you and me."

If I might just interject for a moment, sir, I can bring you substantial authority, and I am prepared to do that, to make my case on sound linguistic authority that the phrase "to keep someone in your back pocket" means to bribe them and to—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, the letter goes on to read:

"They prefer Ontario the way it was—when they called the shots and had things their own way, no matter who else got hurt."

The Speaker: And your point of privilege.

Mr Sorbara: I think I have to get all of the document on the record. The phrase I just—

The Speaker: Not necessarily, but I would ask the member to identify for me what he believes to be his point of privilege.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I'm attempting to hear the member for York Centre, who's raising his point of privilege. Members of his own caucus are interrupting him. I would, first of all, ask the House to show him the courtesy of allowing him to place his point of privilege. I would ask him in turn to place it as succinctly as he can, identifying for me what privilege he believes he has lost.

Mr Sorbara: In as straightforward a manner as I can, sir, I am pleading with you for the opportunity, in conjunction with my point of privilege, to read the entirety of this three-page letter into the record. I've already pointed to one paragraph in the record which suggests in a letter sent out broadly to the province that I and the members of my caucus and the members of the Progressive Conservative caucus are in the back pockets of corporate entities. There are other further references in this fund-raising letter from the New Democratic Party which suggest the same thing.

I plead with you to allow me to proceed with that, but I'll simply say to you, sir, that my point of privilege is this: If there are allegations being made in the province of Ontario that I or my leader or the member for Bruce or the member for Oriole, the member for Mississauga West, the member for York North, the member for Scarborough-Agincourt, any of the members of the Tory caucus, any of the other members, are committing a criminal offence, that is, receiving money to discharge our public responsibilities, that's against the Criminal Code.

They're alleging that we are doing that, and I can't perform my responsibilities, not only in my own riding but anywhere in the province, if—

The Speaker: I understand now the member's concern. Would the member take his seat please for a moment. No, would the member take his seat for a moment.

There are two things I want to say to the member for York Centre. While I'm not precisely sure what assistance I can be to the member—because, as I listen to him, the reference was to parties and not to individual members, and clearly there's a disagreement—however, if the member would be so good as to forward to me the document to which he refers, and if I heard him correctly, he had offered to provide—

Mr David Turnbull (York Mills): No. We want to hear what it's got to say.

The Speaker: Would the member for York Mills come to order? I asked the member for York Mills to come to order.

If I heard the member correctly, he offered to provide for me both some background material and some reference to other material, perhaps to Erskine May or other parliamentary sources. I'd be very pleased to receive that and anything in addition to whatever document he has, and I would be happy to take a look at it.

We are at orders of the day. On the same point of order, the Attorney General.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The seventh order.

The Speaker: I said the same order. Sorry.

To the member for York Centre, order. Does the member for York Centre have something to add? A point of order?

Mr Sorbara: Just to point out that you recognized the Attorney General in this House on a point of order. I will simply point out to you in the clearest of terms, you should check Hansard. You said, "On a point of order." I remind you, sir, that no member is allowed to call an order of the day on a point of order, just as no member is allowed—and I would beg your indulgence for just one moment.

I was in the middle of a point of privilege, and you suggested to me that I simply submit to you written documentation. I plead with you, sir, to understand the traditions of this House, and that on a point of privilege, a member is required to put on the record the substance of his point of privilege. Now the member may freely and openly submit documentation that he can deliver to the press, but in making a point of privilege, he ought not to be curtailed and invited to submit written documentation.

I agree with you that in a court of law a judge has the authority to require counsel for either litigant to submit their arguments in writing and even require that, but you are not allowed to terminate my point of privilege prior to it being completed and suggest that you'll take it in written form. You have a right to rule, but I have a right to complete the point.

If I might on the point of order, either you should rule that you have now heard enough on the point of privilege and that you are making a ruling or you will consider the matter, or you should rule that you have to hear more. But you are not permitted, sir, to say, "I will hear more but I'll take it in written form." That would violate the standing orders. This is a Parliament. We are here to argue and debate and make our points orally before you to this House through you as Speaker. You are not permitted to require me to submit my arguments in writing. You can invite me to do that.

1600

If you are prepared to make a ruling on my point of privilege, I simply submit to you that you have not yet allowed me to make reference to the bible of parliamentary procedure, Erskine May, nor have you permitted me, as you suggested you were going to do, to allow me to put the substance of the material before you.

On the point of order, I simply plead with you, sir, to recognize that we have an obligation to put these matters before you and you have an obligation to rule, but you must allow me to complete my point. I ask you to do that.

The Speaker: To the member for York Centre, two things: First of all, when I asked, "Is it on the same point of order?" I thought the Attorney General was responding, because the member will know that oft-times when a point of order is raised I ask if there are other contributions. Realizing that it was not a contribution to the same point of

order, I then moved back to the member for York Centre. I'm sorry if the member misunderstood what I was saying.

I did invite the member to provide other documentation if he felt it would assist. At the same time, of course, if the member has references from any of the books we use, Erskine May or Beauchesne, I would be most pleased to hear his references which apply in his mind to this particular situation. But I reiterate that if in addition to that he has other material he would like me to take a look at or consider and direct my attention to particular references, I am more than pleased to do that.

Mr Sorbara: If I can continue with the point of privilege, sir—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Intemperate language will not assist us. I ask all members to try to deal with this matter calmly, including the member for Brampton South. With some calmness, perhaps the member for York Centre can succinctly place on the record his reference to his alleged point of privilege and then we can move on with other matters.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, just to assist you on this matter, I am reading now from page 119. This is the 1991 edition of Erskine May, so it's as up-to-date and complete as possible. Under the heading "Misconduct of Members or Officers," the second subheading is "Corruption in the Execution of a Member's Duty."

"The acceptance by any member of either House"—of course this is the British tradition so they're referring to the House of Commons and the House of Lords—"of a bribe to influence him in his conduct as such member or of any fee, compensation or reward in connection with the promotion of, or opposition to any bill, resolution, matter or thing submitted or intended to be submitted to the House or any committee thereof is a breach of privilege. Members of the Commons who have been found guilty of such an offence have been expelled or committed."

One of the cases referred to is CJ (1693-1697), page 236. I used to remember what that stood for when I practised law, but the reference to "committed" is to go to jail—pretty simple. If you do that, if you accept a bribe, any fee, compensation or reward in connection with the promotion of or the opposition to any bill, you have breached your privileges and you are subject to being expelled from the Legislature and committed to jail.

I might add that it is also a contempt for a member to enter into an agreement—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. I ask the House to come to order. The member for York Centre will try to complete succinctly.

Mr Sorbara: Parenthetically, I want to thank the member for Markham for his encouragement. Erskine May has simply made the point that to accept a bribe in respect of any bill or any matter that a member is dealing with is a breach of the privileges we have as members and is subject to being expelled from the Legislature, and at the

same time being charged with a criminal offence and being jailed. That's what the reference to "committed" is.

Now, I take you back to the document sent out by the government party, in which it says—I'm sorry to repeat it, sir, but it's been a while—"The old élites, those big business leaders who keep the Liberals"—

The Speaker: To the member for York Centre, he earlier read the letter. I listened very carefully to it. He has made his one reference to Erskine May and, indeed, that will guide me in reading that particular portion. What I ask him to now do is, if he has any other reference, please succinctly put it on the record so we can move along with the routine business of this chamber.

Mr Sorbara: Mr Speaker, I hope within the next minute or two, in completing my point, to be able to bring to you in this House, sir, authority for the proposition that the phrase "keeping someone in their back pocket" is tantamount to saying "accepting bribes."

If the government party is suggesting in this letter that I as a Liberal—I want to point out to you parenthetically, sir, that "Liberals" is capitalized here. It's not small-l liberals or small-t Tories. "The Liberals and the Tories are in the back pocket of big business." In the vernacular, sir, that is a clear, unequivocal statement that I and other members of my party are accepting bribes. If it's true, you ought to expel me; if it's not true, then the allegation that the government party has made publicly into thousands and thousands of households across the province prohibits me from carrying on my right and my responsibility as an elected member of this Legislature.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre, you have quite energetically brought your point of privilege to my attention, along with a particular reference, and I'm pleased to take a look at it. The member perhaps would be kind enough to forward the document to me at his earliest convenience, and the reference pages he cited are in Hansard and I will be able to follow up.

1610

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker, under standing order 95(d). On June 3, 1992, I tabled question 385 in Orders and Notices, which reads as follows: "Mr Cousens—Inquiry of the Ministry—Would the Minister of the Environment provide a complete list of names, job titles, job descriptions and salaries of all people employed in the Interim Waste Authority. June 3, 1992."

Standing order 95(d) states: "The minister shall answer such written questions within 14 calendar days unless he or she indicates that more time is required because the answer will be costly or time-consuming or that he or she declines to answer, in which case a notation shall be made on the Orders and Notices paper following the question indicating that the minister has made an interim answer, the approximate date that the information will be available, or that the minister has declined to answer, as the case may be."

Order paper questions are supposed to be answered within 14 days. Mr Speaker, it is your responsibility to ensure that the standing orders of this House are complied with. The government has shown a blatant disrespect for standing orders by not answering this question. I ask you to take the necessary steps to enforce the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Now, if I could comment on that question—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Markham, if he would just resume his seat for a moment. Indeed, he has a valid point of order. I'm not sure whether the member was in the chamber earlier this afternoon when I ruled on this matter consistent with rulings of other Speakers.

Briefly, for the member, there is no sanction when that particular standing order is breached. However, I have invited all members, if they want to revisit that rule at a moment when perhaps a committee of the House is looking at rule changes, then that may indeed be a good exercise; but having raised it in the House he of course draws attention to it again, and perhaps the minister affected will be able to comply with the member's request.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): On that point, Mr Speaker—not to spend too much time because I don't want to tie it up—I did bring to your attention the fact that wilful neglect to perform a duty under the standing orders could form contempt. I wish to make the argument quite clear to you that the only way we can really point out in the House that there is a wilful neglect to reply to order paper questions is to stand in this place and put on the record that 14 days and more have elapsed since the question was placed.

If there is still no answer and there continues to be no answer day after day, that alone is enough, it seems to me, to begin to make the case for wilful neglect to perform a duty or an obligation under the standing orders. That, quite clearly, at least the way I'm reading Erskine May today and other days, and other authorities, would lead one to say that it is an omission which amounts to contempt of the Parliament of which we are members, because there is a clear omission to perform a duty, an obligation under the standing orders.

I shan't say more of it, but I would ask you to take a look, commencing at page 103 of Erskine May, at what it does say about contempt and other things. There are some other pages which I haven't noted, but let me point out to you that we have no alternative but to put on the record publicly that there has been an omission to commence. If there has been an omission on successive days and attempts have been made to get the answer, with no response or with no interim response, then that could be converted, my feeling is, into an allegation of contempt that must surely be dealt with by you as Speaker.

That is the only sanction we have as an opposition to require the government ministers to respond to our issues, our attempts to get information. I won't repeat it again, but I will repeat that same argument to you in writing.

The Speaker: The member for Bruce makes an interesting argument and one I would wish to spend a bit of

time to reflect on. I would agree with him that when the time prescribed has elapsed, it would be proper for the member affected to rise in his or her place and draw it to the attention of the House. I agree completely with him on that point.

As to the leap from omission to wilful neglect which thus leads to contempt, it is something that, on my part, requires a bit of reflection. I appreciate the way he has gone about the point. If he will do as I think he's suggesting, following up in writing with other references, as usual I'd be very delighted to hear from the member, who always has very constructive things to say with respect to procedures.

Before entertaining any more points of order or privilege, I would ask the House to consider quite seriously the position in which it is placing its Speaker. On the one hand all members show a desire and an interest to conduct the public business; on the other hand the members have a responsibility to rise if they believe a privilege has been lost or there's something out of order. I have asked, and indeed almost all members have been very cooperative in not raising points of order or privilege during oral questions since that takes away from the time of backbenchers to ask questions. I would ask that the same kind of consideration be given to the rest of the time we normally devote to the conduct of public business.

Having said that, if indeed any member feels there is some urgent, pressing matter which must be brought to the Speaker's attention, then of course I will listen. I would ask all members to try to do the balancing act between those positions I have enunciated rather than placing your Speaker in a very awkward and difficult position.

Mrs Barbara Sullivan (Halton Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I want to follow up on a point of order with respect to the matters raised by my House leader on a situation which indeed I have brought before the House before. I currently have, and I suppose this relates to standing order 95(d), question 394 on Orders and Notices now which reads as follows:

"Mrs Sullivan—Inquiry of the Ministry—Would the Minister of Health provide detailed information on the current financial status of each of Ontario's 224 hospitals, indicating the following: (1) name and location of the hospital, number of beds per hospital, and population of the community served; (2) operating budget for 1992; (3) interim financial projection for the years 1991-92, as of June 1, 1992; (4) any projected transition funding for 1992, if applicable; (5) any projected funding for pay equity for 1992, if applicable; (6) impact of the Ontario Nurses' Association settlement for the years 1992 and 1993; (7) operational decisions to meet zero-deficit requirement indicating (a) bed closures; (b) service cutbacks; (c) staff cutbacks and layoffs and (d) increased optional charges; (8) capital projections for the years 1992 and 1993; (9) staffing hours provided on the day, afternoon, evening and night shift by (a) registered nursing staff and (b) nurses/health care aides; (10) staff to resident ratios on the day, afternoon, evening and night shift for (a) registered nursing staff and (b) nursing/health care aides."

I had that question on Orders and Notices in the last session of this House and I had to rise on two occasions in the Legislature on a question of privilege under standing order 95(d) because I had received no response to that question. You will understand that as official opposition critic for activities of the Ministry of Health at a time of restructuring in the entire health care system, and particularly in the hospital community, the responses to that question were very important to me in my approach to the work I was doing.

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Indeed, at the end of the session, when I had received no response to that question, I wrote a specific letter to you requesting that you intervene with the Minister of Health and suggest to her that she was dilatory in her duties in not providing that response, which was required under the standing orders.

I think what is clear here is that the very evidence and instance of wilful neglect and omission to perform her duties under the standing orders is evident in this particular situation. This is not the first occasion that this question has been there. We still require the answers. The minister has given no indication that the answers cannot be provided; the minister has simply not provided those answers.

I think the reference in Erskine May to which my House leader has referred is one that applies very distinctly in this particular instance. What has occurred is that the Minister of Health has simply refused to follow standing order 95(d) in preparing the response within an appropriate period, in the appropriate detail, so that I can in fact do my job.

The Speaker: To the member for Halton Centre, I appreciate the point she raises. As she will know from earlier similar points that have been raised today—many of them—there is nothing in the standing orders which is of assistance to her at this juncture. The larger matter to which she refers and to which her House leader had referred is something which will require some thought and some time. However, she has exercised the appropriate responsibility in bringing it once again to the attention of the House, and indeed to the Minister of Health, and perhaps that will accomplish the desired result.

Mr Cousens: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order under standing order 95(d), very similar in fact to the point of order that's just been raised by another member. Indeed, I know of a number of members in the House who are very interested in raising this point of order, inasmuch as the government is not in the process of responding to questions.

I'm of the belief that the House shouldn't call it question period any more; it could well be called "answer period" by virtue of the fact that we don't get answers. It is becoming a not very worthwhile exercise. When one goes to the effort of placing these order paper questions and they're given sufficient time to respond to them, it is showing a callous disregard for the legislative process that the government is not prepared to respond to these questions.

The fact is that our constituents expect us to be able to come back to them with answers. The fact also is that you write a letter to this government and they're not inclined to

answer. I have a belief they don't even know how to read; probably they get a sore finger after they read a whole page.

Notwithstanding that, the order paper questions are not long. This one in particular, order paper question 389, is one I have addressed to the Minister of Housing. We've had numerous questions of this minister in the House. This inquiry of the minister is: "Would the Minister of Housing please provide a detailed résumé of Mr S. Douglas Carroll of Keswick, the newly appointed member of the York Regional Housing Authority. Please list his relevant experience for this position." I dated that June 3, 1992.

Standing order 95(d) states:

"The minister shall answer such written questions within 14 calendar days unless he or she indicates that more time is required because the answer will be costly or time-consuming or that he or she declines to answer, in which case a notation shall be made on the Orders and Notices paper following the question indicating that the minister has made an interim answer, the approximate date that the information will be available, or that the minister—

The Speaker: To the member for Markham, I don't mean to interrupt improperly, but he rose earlier and read to me the same rule which he is now reading, only this applies to a different question. I appreciate the fact that he's drawn this particular question to my attention. By so doing he has notified the House and the minister affected, and the same ruling still applies.

In all of these I appreciate the concern which the members are addressing. By properly drawing it to the attention of the House, of course, the hope is that it will get the desired result and that the answer will be forthcoming. But the member for Markham has drawn it to my attention.

Mr Cousens: If I may, Mr Speaker, with respect to your response now and to the fact that on so many other occasions you have indicated back that the House has a valid point of order, which this is as well; and that other members have tabled it; and that you've also indicated it would be worthy of further consideration either by the minister or by an appropriate committee of the Legislature, the sense of frustration becomes very real for those in opposition who have placed a valid point of order—have tabled it, have done it with respect to the Chair and the House—and then nothing further comes of it from this government.

Having been here long enough to know what the New Democrats did when they were in opposition, they too were quite incensed. One would think that with their present circumstance and their ability to do what they want, they could at least do what they said they would do if ever they had the chance to do it.

My sense is that since 14 days have now passed it is very important to put this on the record. The Ministry of Housing has indeed many changes that are going on. It has to do with an appointment within my community. People will be going away for the summer holidays shortly, and I will not be able to explain to them in a public way what has gone on. There is validity to what I am trying to say.

The Speaker: To the member for Markham, there is nothing more I can add to the answer I gave him earlier and indeed have given to other members. I cannot state it any more clearly than I have. I appreciate the concerns and I trust that members will appreciate that there is nothing in the standing orders which is of assistance at this point. That doesn't mean to say there won't be in the future, but as of today there isn't.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I rise under section 95(d) as well to raise another point of order which is very important. The member for Markham and I both have an issue at stake here, he as critic for the third party, and myself. It is my order paper question 85. I'll read it to you, and I will, at your urging to my colleague for Markham, not read section 95(d), but there is a sense of urgency in terms of this. I'll read the order paper question—

The Speaker: To assist the member, it won't be necessary to read the rule, but could the member succinctly identify the order paper question number and the minister to whom the question was directed.

Mr McClelland: Yes, I'll do that, Speaker. Thank you for your direction. It is order paper question 85 and it is to the Minister of the Environment. It is on the matter of grey water, which is very important. It is an important issue.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Markham.

Mr McClelland: I have received literally thousands of letters, and I'm sure the member has as well. It is a matter of great concern considering the fact that the boating season is now upon us and there are people who want to know what is going to happen with respect to that issue. In terms of carrying out my responsibility as the critic for the Environment, I would like to have the information.

I wrote an order paper question dated April 7, 1992. It reads as follows: "Would the Minister of the Environment provide the most recent information which is being distributed from her office regarding grey water?" That is an important question, because as I said, there are literally thousands of people who have written from across the province who are affected by this issue. There are cottagers who are concerned about it, and people who have lakefront property, and there are boaters as well who have significant investment in terms of their pleasure craft. They want to know what is going to happen.

The member for Markham and myself had the privilege of attending a seminar with the Minister of the Environment, and she indicated at that point that there would be information forthcoming. It wasn't forthcoming immediately, and so we did what was our responsibility as critics for the opposition. My colleague and I together wrote the minister. No answer was forthcoming, as the member raised again. There was no response, so we raised that order paper question.

I might indicate that there was an interim answer tabled on April 30, and it was somewhat helpful; I do want to acknowledge that. It provided a little bit of information, but basically it said that the Ministry of the Environment would go back and reconsider and consult yet once again. But it really didn't provide anything of any substance for

the people who are concerned about this issue, and people are concerned about it. You can understand that, in terms of the environmental integrity of the waterways and the pleasure craft, the literally thousands of pleasure craft on the waterways of Ontario, this is an issue of very significant concern.

It would be most helpful, Speaker, if you could assist us in obtaining an answer so I can fulfil my responsibility and duty as Environment critic and pass on the information to people who can't get it from the Ministry of the Environment.

The Speaker: The member for Brampton North, would you resume your seat please. I must give you the same answer I have given all those other members who have risen with their concerns. You do have a valid point of order. You have a concern that I understand. You have also, by way of bringing it to the attention of the House, served notice on the minister affected and perhaps that will have the desired effect.

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MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): In accordance with standing order 21(a), I do believe there has been a breach of the personal privileges of myself and several other members in our capacity to operate within the legislative precinct.

Mr Speaker, you would be aware that there are services given to members in their capacity, not by virtue of being the government or in opposition, but simply by having been elected as MPP in this district. For that reason, when it has come to my attention, as it has today, that the services I rely upon that flow directly from your office, sir, have been arbitrarily suspended or may have been arbitrarily suspended by the government, this may not have been brought to your attention and I wish to share that information with you.

Probably the most important resource we have is our linkage with our constituents. Our constituents talk to us in a variety of ways. One of them is through the media, and most notably through the print media. It has come to my attention that of the normal allocation of newspapers to our offices a certain subscription has been suspended. To the extent that this suspension has been made public and that this was an act of the Premier of this province, and just because the Toronto Star is having its current labour difficulties and the government of the day has its right to suspend activities with that newspaper, whether I agree with that or not, I fundamentally believe that when the Premier's edict may reach into the legislative precinct and deny us these rights, this has serious implications in other areas.

I believe there is additional information I wish to share with you.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Burlington South, I believe I can be of some assistance to him in this regard. Indeed he is correct. I believe there was a decision by the government with respect to the subscription to the Toronto Star. That has no effect upon the Legislative Assembly. The newspapers to which members

are entitled, the member will know, are ordered one by one by the members. Members have a choice with respect to which papers they receive. Those deliveries, the subscriptions, continue to be in place.

My understanding is that we have not been able to receive the newspapers, that the deliveries have been sporadic, but the subscriptions have not been cancelled and, indeed, whatever papers members normally order will continue to be delivered to their offices, provided the members still wish to receive them. I reiterate that, to my knowledge, the actual deliveries have been sporadic, but the assembly will continue to provide whatever papers the members wish to receive. I do appreciate you bringing it to my attention.

Is there something additional, the member for Burlington South?

Mr Jackson: Mr Speaker, I appreciate that you have some form of interim ruling based on some assumptions that you've been given assurances of. My question to you specifically was to investigate directly with the Toronto Star if in fact the memo or any correspondence to the Toronto Star from the government of the day could or would have been interpreted in such a way that the delivery of those newspapers to this legislative precinct have in some way been adversely affected. I'm asking you, Mr Speaker, as I believe it is my right, to undertake an investigation to determine that such action did not occur, because it would, in my view, become a precedent.

I don't wish to take up further time of this House, but there are precedents in other legislative chambers for government rulings during labour unrest as they adversely affect the rights and privileges of members. The fact that this can be interpreted by the Toronto Star or by the Premier of this province as a suspension of our services—I'm looking to you, Speaker, in your capacity as the person responsible for our legislative precinct, to notify the Premier of that so we have a ruling for the record and not simply your assumptions of assurance that the circumstances of suspended newspapers may just be a problem with delivery. I frankly believe the matter is serious enough that it should be investigated by you.

The Speaker: Would the member take his seat. Let me be very clear and direct with the member. The newspaper deliveries to the members' offices continue as normal, provided that the newspapers can actually be delivered here. There is no change. There is a clear distinction between decisions made by the government and decisions made by the Legislative Assembly. We continue to deliver papers to the members' offices as the members have requested, and that will continue. But I appreciate the member bringing it to my attention, and indeed if any member of the House experiences a difficulty in that regard, the member should indeed bring it to my attention.

Before entertaining any more points of order—would members take their seats for a moment—I will note, and I know the members will appreciate knowing, that I have now entertained points of order for 45 minutes. I know the members are anxious to move on with the regular business of the House. If there is something that is so urgent that it

must be raised at this point, I have an obligation to listen to it, but I would ask the members to try to be very reasonable and ask themselves whether or not their particular point of order could be raised on another occasion.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: This is pursuant to section 21(a) of the standing orders, which states that "Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the House collectively and by the members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Assembly Act and other statutes, or by practice, precedent, usage and custom." I would have brought this point of privilege to your attention except for two facts: one is that I could not find anywhere in the standing orders where it was required; second, standing order 21(b) requires me to bring it to your attention immediately.

According to section 29 of the standing orders, which describes routine proceedings, as well as the business for Wednesday, June 17, 1992, "The routine proceedings before the orders of the day are as follows: members' statements, statements by the ministry and responses, oral questions, motions, petitions, reports by committees, introduction of bills." That is all prior to orders of the day.

Today one of my privileges and rights as a member has been trampled upon. I had a petition which members of the Ontario Real Estate Association had asked me to read today. I have checked with the Clerk; it is valid, and it is in order. This is a point of privilege.

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: A point of order. Just a minute.

First of all, to the member for Eglinton, I understand what you're raising, and I will hear the point of order in a moment from the Attorney General. Let me address your concern. While it is perfectly in order with respect to our procedures and there was a ruling earlier that we can move to orders of the day at any point beyond oral questions—and that was what happened today; there was nothing out of order about that—I understand the member's concern and indeed, where she had a petition to present, her frustration in not being able to present it today. But there is nothing I can do about that. Indeed, under the way in which we operate, she has not in fact lost a privilege.

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Ms Poole: Can I ask for clarification? If indeed I have not lost a privilege, would it then be in order for the government, for the rest of its time in power, to skip every day the part of routine proceedings that includes petitions, reports and bills? Would it then be in order that at the beginning of question period they immediately move to orders of the day? Could we as members of the opposition be completely trampled upon, and could I perhaps have no right to present a petition for the remaining time as a member in this Parliament? Is that possible? Do we have no rights, Mr Speaker?

The Speaker: The member is indeed right in the sense that because there is the ability to move to orders of the day after oral questions, there is the possibility that that

could be placed each and every sitting day; in that respect she is right as the current orders stand. That's not to say it couldn't be changed on some other occasion.

The Attorney General had a point of order? Is it is on the same point?

Hon Mr Hampton: Actually, Mr Speaker, it is a point of privilege: Some time ago I rose in my place to move the seventh order. You have heard several points of order, some of them quite repetitive, Mr Speaker—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: —and I have not had any opportunity to speak to the seventh order. I would like to move at this time the seventh order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Just relax, folks.

I understand the point of order the Attorney General raises. I believe the Attorney General was in the chamber when I made the comment that you're placing your Speaker in a very awkward position where, on the one hand there is the desire of all members in the House to deal with public business, and on the other hand members feel they must rise on a point of order or privilege. In addition to that, the Speaker has a responsibility to listen to points of order or privilege. The Speaker cannot determine whether the point of order is valid or the point of privilege is valid unless the Speaker is able to hear it.

What I am asking the members to do is to try to be reasonable with respect to the amount of time we're utilizing over these points of order, and I would ask the members to seriously consider whether or not they can raise these points on some other occasion. Bearing that in mind, if they feel it is absolutely crucial that they raise this point of order right now, then I will listen to it, but I ask you—I have spent close to an hour listening to points of order, and I really believe it's about time we moved on to the regular order of whatever it is we're going to do in the public interest.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr Sorbara: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: My point of order relates to matters contained on the Orders and Notices paper. In a sense, sir, it is notice to you of a very large and very serious issue. Just to begin—and I am going to be very succinct—I want to remind you, sir, of standing order 1(b).

Hon Peter North (Minister of Tourism and Recreation): This is enough. This is wrong.

Mr Sorbara: You could listen to this. I say to the Minister of Tourism—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order. Will the member for York Centre direct his comments to the Chair.

Mr Sorbara: I say to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation that you might just listen to this because it could change the dynamic of this House.

The Speaker: If the member truly has a point of order, I ask him to make it succinctly and to the Chair, not to anyone else.

Mr Sorbara: Thank you, sir. Standing order 1(b) reads as follows:

"In all contingencies not provided for in the standing orders the question shall be decided by the Speaker or Chair, and in making the ruling the Speaker or Chair shall base the decision on the usages and precedents of the Legislature and parliamentary tradition." I underscore "parliamentary tradition."

On the order paper, order of the day 6, "Resuming the adjourned debate on government notice of motion number 7 on amendments to the standing orders," I want to submit to you, sir, as follows: If you refer to the analysis of this Legislature periodically written by Mr Graham White, *The Ontario Legislature: A Political Analysis*—this edition is the 1989 edition—and to the chapter which begins on page 225, *The Process of Reform*, Mr Speaker, you'll find a brief history of parliamentary reform in this chamber.

The history is not a long history. It is 25 pages in all. I'm not going to read any of it into the record now. I simply want to submit to you as follows: This analysis of parliamentary reform argues strongly for the proposition that in this Legislature there has not been an occasion where the government has placed on the order paper reforms to the standing orders in the absence of consultation with the opposition parties. I want to argue to you, sir, that in the 125-year history of this Legislature there is no occasion when a government has placed on the order paper for debate by this Legislature amendments to the standing orders without prior consultation with the opposition parties, and often consensus.

I want to submit to you that that's the parliamentary tradition. I want to invite you, sir, simply to take notice of the fact that I will be bringing to your attention, under a point of order, authority for the proposition that that rule of parliamentary tradition exists not only in this Parliament but in virtually every Parliament governed by the British parliamentary tradition. I simply want to give you notice that I'm going to be making arguments that you have the authority—not only the authority: you will have the responsibility, having heard those arguments, to rule from your chair with the advice of the Clerk, whose advice you properly take from time to time, that the placing of government notice of motion 7 on the order paper is in itself a violation of the standing orders of this Legislature because it's breached parliamentary tradition.

I just have one more sentence, if I might. I'm not making the point now and I would prefer that you not rule now, but I simply want to invite you, sir, to begin your own independent research—and to the Clerk as well—because I will be making further arguments along that line. I believe those arguments, once considered by you, will succeed and the government will have to withdraw, under your direction, government notice of motion 7.

The Speaker: The member for York Centre, while I appreciate his concern in these matters, there is, regrettably from his point of view, nothing out of order. The member may recall an earlier comment made by the Speaker that this place functions best when there are no surprises. While I understand his point, there is nothing out of order.

None the less, anything he can bring to my attention with respect to this matter I'm pleased to consider.

The Minister of Tourism and Recreation had a point of order.

Hon Mr North: It's not a point of order, Mr Speaker. I'd like to call the seventh order.

The Speaker: I understand the member's interest. I believe all members will want to do the public business and I trust we can get to that fairly soon.

1650

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Speaker, at the outset of this point of order I want to point out to you that I'm rising on a point of order under standing order 95(d). To save you some time, sir, I'm not going to read the question, but in the absence of the member for Waterloo North, on April 14, 1992, she tabled the following order paper questions:

Question 300 to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, question 301 to the Minister of the Attorney General, question 302 to the Minister of the Attorney General, question 303 to the Minister of Citizenship, question 305 to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, question 306 again to the Minister of Colleges and Universities, question 307 to the same minister, question 308 to the Minister of Community and Social Services, question 309 to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, question 310 to the same minister.

Question 311 to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, question 312 to the same minister, question 313 to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, question 314 to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, question 315 to the Minister of Correctional Services, question 316 also to the Minister of Correctional Services, question 317 to the Minister of Culture and Communications—are we beginning to get the point that the ministers aren't paying any attention or answering the questions?

Question 318 to the Minister of Culture and Communications, question 319 to the same minister, question 320 to the Minister of Culture and Communications, question 321 to the Minister of Culture and Communications, question 322 to the Minister of Culture and Communications, question 323 to the Minister of Education, question 324 to the Minister of Energy, question 325 also to the Minister of Energy, question 326 to the same minister, question 327 to the same minister, question 328 to the Minister of the Environment, question 329 to the Minister of the Environment, question 330 to the Minister of Financial Institutions.

Question 331 to the same minister, question 332 to the Minister of Financial Institutions, question 333 to the same minister, question 334 to the minister responsible for francophone affairs, question 335 to the Minister of Government Services, question 336 to the Minister of Government Services, question 337 to the minister responsible for the greater Toronto area, question 338 to the Minister of Health, question 339 to the Minister of Health, question 340 to the Minister of Health, question 341 to the Minister of Health—it would seem, sir, that there are a lot of minis-

ters over there who just don't pay any attention to these order paper questions whatsoever.

Question 342 to the Minister of Housing, question 343 to the Minister of Housing, question 344 to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, question 345 to the same minister, question 346 to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, question 347 to the same minister, question 348 to the same minister, question 349 to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, question 350 to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, question 351 to the Minister of Labour, question 352 to the Minister of Labour, question 353 to the Minister of Labour, questions 354 and 355 both to the Minister of Labour, question 356 to the Chair of Management Board, question 357 also to the Chair of Management Board, question 358 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Question 359 to the minister responsible for native affairs, question 360 to the Minister of Natural Resources, question 361 to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, question 362 to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, question 363 to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, question 364 to the Minister of Revenue, question 365 to the Minister of Skills Development, question 366 to the Minister of Skills Development, question 367 to the Solicitor General, question 368 to the Solicitor General, question 369 to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation—maybe if he'd spend more time answering his correspondence and less time trying to interject and move motions during points of order, we could get some answers.

Question 370 to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, question 371 to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, question 372 to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, question 373 to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, and questions 374 and 375 to the same minister, question 376 to the Minister of Transportation, question 377 to the Minister of Transportation, question 378 to the Minister of Treasury and Economics, question 379 to the Minister of Treasury and Economics and question 380 to the minister responsible for women's issues.

If this government were really serious about dealing with some of these issues, I could have read out every single one of those questions. I've tried to save you some time, Mr Speaker, but surely this demonstrates the ineptness of the ministers over there, or the indifference to be bothered to respond to these questions. This is a very important issue here.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Parry Sound, first of all I appreciate the fact that he didn't use up a great deal more time by reading each question and so on, and I appreciate the point that he raises. I think the contribution that not only he has made this afternoon but also a number of other members draws our attention first of all to the large volume of questions which are placed, and of course the response time may or may not be adequate. Because of the complexity of our system these days, perhaps we should be taking a look at how we handle these questions and perhaps we need a different manner. If the current one isn't working, maybe we need a different way to do things.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXTENDED HOURS OF MEETING

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): The seventh order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The seventh order.

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): A point of privilege.

Interjections.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): I move under standing order 22 that the member for Mississauga North now be heard.

Hon Mr Hampton: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I moved the seventh order twice previously and due to—

The Speaker: The table officer read it.

Mr Elston: I moved under standing order 22 that the member for Mississauga North now be heard.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Yes, we stopped the clock. The standing order to which the member referred is in reference to debate. We are not in a debate at this point. The standing order was—

Mr Elston: A point of privilege takes precedence.

The Speaker: Not in the middle of a sentence. You expect a lot from your Speaker.

The standing order was called, although it may not have been heard, the table officer was speaking. She was saying something. It was difficult for that to be heard because of other voices but indeed she was calling whatever it says on that paper for order number eight, if that's what was called. She was actually reading some words. I couldn't hear them, but she was. The Attorney General.

Hon Mr Hampton: Just to be sure, Mr Speaker, it was the seventh order.

The Speaker: It was called, whatever the number was.

Mr Elston: I moved. He took the floor.

Ms Dianne Poole (Eglinton): Mr Speaker, on a point of privilege.

The Speaker: Just a minute. The noise didn't help. I mistakenly said number eight. The actual number that was called was seven. I mistakenly said eight, but the table officer, being more vigilant than I, heard the actual number and said the actual number.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): Do you want the clock to go back to 10:53?

The Speaker: Yes, the clock should be replaced to 10:53. The member for Carleton had the floor when we last—

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): Mr Speaker, so things can cool out, I want to move adjournment of the debate.

The Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Interjections: Yes, yes.

The Speaker: You only have to say it once.

1729

The House divided on Mr Sterling's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 37; nays 59.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): The member for Carleton, you have the floor.

Hon Howard Hampton: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I have an important point of order. I believe it's an important point of order—

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I have the floor for 10 minutes. I demand to use the 10 minutes, as provided by the standing orders.

Mr Elston: I move, under standing order 22(b), that the member for Carleton now be heard.

The Deputy Speaker: I recognized the member for Carleton. As I recognized him, the member for Rainy River stood up on a point of order, and I recognize him. You now have the floor.

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Speaker, I have a point of order and I would ask you to listen to it briefly.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Carleton, please take your seat. The member for Rainy River.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCESS

Hon Howard Hampton (Attorney General): Mr Speaker, my point of order is this: It concerns the way the House is being conducted and has been conducted this day. I believe we have on the order paper each day several important questions to be decided. In fact, the government has 28 separate bills awaiting second reading. We heard earlier today no less than 12 points of order, 12 points of privilege. When that happens, this chamber ceases to function. Committees cannot sit to hear estimates; estimates which are a very important part of this Legislature cannot be heard.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Order.

Hon Mr Hampton: Estimates cannot be heard, and yet I hear every day from the opposition that estimates are an important part of this House and estimates must be conducted.

Mr Speaker, 28 separate bills await second reading and cannot be dealt with.

I attempted on three separate occasions today to stand and move the seventh order under orders of the day, yet we cannot have that done because we have repetitive points of order from the opposition being raised, points of order which recite chapter and verse the text of questions that have been answered in the House previously, points which have been addressed by means of written responses previously.

I submit, Mr Speaker, that what is happening here is that the normal business of the House, which is to entertain important questions of the day, to entertain the government's legislation, to debate that legislation, to have that legislation examined and to have that legislation

amended if necessary, cannot be conducted because of the way these matters have been brought by members of the opposition.

The Deputy Speaker: Please take your chair. Order, please. I've listened very attentively to your remarks. I believe strongly that it is a privilege of everyone to rise on a point of order; they followed the procedures, it was done within the procedures, so therefore I do not consider your point a point of order.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Take your seat. I have recognized the member for Carleton.

Hon Mr Hampton: Mr Speaker, if I could just read—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Please take your seat. I have ruled that you have not a point of order and I have recognized the member for Carleton.

Interjections.

Mr David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker—

The Deputy Speaker: The member has a point of privilege.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. You have just shown the Speaker that if I don't have your cooperation I'm not capable of hearing. I do not know if the member for Carleton said that the House should be adjourned. I do not know that.

I recognized the member for Carleton. Immediately the member for Hamilton Centre stood up on a point of privi-

lege. On a point of privilege I have to recognize the member immediately. These are the procedures.

Mr Christopherson: Mr Speaker, I feel that my rights have been infringed on by the fact that the previous speaker was not given a chance to complete his point of order. If his point of order is not allowed, Mr Speaker, my rights as a member of this House have been—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I ask you please to take your seat. This is not a point of privilege. The member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: I move adjournment of the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr Sterling moves the adjournment of the House. All those in favour—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Take your seat. I order you to take your seat.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The Speaker has started to ask the question. The question from the member for Carleton is, shall the House be adjourned? That is the question.

1810

The House divided on Mr Sterling's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 34; nays 59.

The Deputy Speaker: It being past 6 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 10 of the clock tomorrow morning.

The House adjourned at 1811.

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Phillip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziembra, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winninger, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	
York East/-Est	Malkowski, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMITÉS DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

STANDING COMMITTEES/COMITÉS PERMANENTS

Administration of justice/Administration de la justice

Chair/Président: Mike Cooper
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mark Morrow
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Jenny Carter, Robert Chiarelli, Mike Cooper, Alvin Curling, Charles Harnick, Steven W. Mahoney, Gary Malkowski, Mark Morrow, Robert W. Runciman, Paul Wessinger, David Wnninger
Clerk/Greffière: Lisa Freedman

Estimates/Budgets des dépenses

Chair/Président: Cameron Jackson
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Margaret Marland
Members/Membres: Gilles Bisson, Gary Carr, Ron Eddy, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Wayne Lessard, Lawrence O'Connor, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Gregory S. Sorbara
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Finance and economic affairs/ Finances et affaires économiques

Chair/Président: Ron Hansen
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Kimble Sutherland
Members/Membres: Elinor Caplan, Gary Carr, David Christopherson, Norm Jamison, Monte Kwinter, Gerry Phillips, Norman W. Sterling, Brad Ward, Margery Ward, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

General government/Affaires gouvernementales

Chair/Président: Michael A. Brown
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Carman McClelland
Members/Membres: Ted Arnott, Will Ferguson, Derek Fletcher, Margaret H. Harrington, Randy R. Hope, George Mammoliti, Rosario Marchese, Bill Murdoch, Dianne Poole, John Sola
Clerk/Greffière: Deborah Deller

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Chair/Président: Robert W. Runciman
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Allan K. McLean
Members/Membres: James J. Bradley, Jenny Carter, John C. Cleary, Will Ferguson, Robert Frankford, Bernard C. Grandmaître, Rosario Marchese, Chris Stockwell, Daniel Waters, Jim Wiseman
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Legislative Assembly/Assemblée législative

Chair/Président: Noel Duignan
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Mike Farnan
Members/Membres: Mike Cooper, Paul R. Johnson, Margaret Marland, Irene Mathysen, Carman McClelland, Gord Mills, Gilles E. Morin, Stephen Owens, Barbara Sullivan, Noble Villeneuve
Clerk/Greffier: Douglas Arnott

Ombudsman/Ombudsman

Chair/Président: Mark Morrow
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Christel Haeck
Members/Membres: Zanana Akande, Dennis Drainville, Noel Duignan, D. James Henderson, Paul R. Johnson, Frank Miclash, Bill Murdoch, Anthony Perruzza, David Ramsay, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffier: Franco Carrozza

Public accounts/Comptes publics

Chair/Président: Remo Mancini
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Joseph Cordiano
Members/Membres: Robert V. Callahan, W. Donald Cousens, Noel Duignan, Robert Frankford, Christel Haeck, Pat Hayes, Paul R. Johnson, Lawrence O'Connor, Gregory S. Sorbara, David Tilson
Clerk/Greffière: Tannis Manikel

Regulations and private bills/ Règlements et projets de loi privés

Chair/Président: Drummond White
Vice-Chair/Vice-Présidente: Ellen MacKinnon
Members/Membres: George Dadamo, Ron Eddy, Mike Farnan, Ron Hansen, W. Leo Jordan, Gord Mills, Tony Ruprecht, John Sola, Kimble Sutherland, Jim Wilson
Clerk/Greffier: Todd Decker

Resources development/Développement des ressources

Chair/Président: Peter Kormos
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Daniel Waters
Members/Membres: Sean G. Conway, George Dadamo, Bob Huget, W. Leo Jordan, Paul Klopp, Dalton J.P. McGuinty, Sharon Murdock, Steven Offer, David Turnbull, Len Wood
Clerk/Greffier: Harold Brown

Social development/Affaires sociales

Chair/Président: Charles Beer
Vice-Chair/Vice-Président: Hans Daigeler
Members/Membres: Dennis Drainville, Joan M. Fawcett, Tony Martin, Irene Mathysen, Yvonne O'Neill, Stephen Owens, Drummond White, Gary Wilson, Jim Wilson, Elizabeth Witmer
Clerk/Greffière: Lynn Mellor

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXTRAORDINAIRE

Parliamentary precinct/Enceinte parlementaire

Co-Chair/Coprésident: David Warner
Co-Chair/Coprésident: Noel Duignan
Members/Membres: Dianne Cunningham, Remo Mancini, Kimble Sutherland
Clerk/Greffier: Smirle Forsyth

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No. 39

N° 39

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Thursday 18 June 1992

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Jeudi 18 juin 1992



Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 18 June 1992

The House met at 1004.

Prayers.

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 11(b), I wonder if there is a quorum present.

The Deputy Speaker (Mr Gilles E. Morin): Table, would you please check if there is a quorum.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals (Mr Alex D. McFedries): A quorum is not present, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1010

The Deputy Speaker: Is there a quorum?

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals: There are 17 members present, Mr Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: I would ask you to take the names of the members who are present in the House.

A quorum being not present, I would move that the House be adjourned until 1:30 of the clock on Monday.

The House adjourned at 1012.



No. 40A

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ISSN 1180-2987

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Second Session, 35th Parliament

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 22 June 1992

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Lundi 22 juin 1992

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 22 June 1992

The House met at 1330.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' EXPENDITURES

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I beg to inform the House I have today laid upon the table the individual members' expenditures for the fiscal year 1991-92. The members will find a copy in their desks in the chamber.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

IRVING CHAPLEY

Mr Monte Kwinter (Wilson Heights): Irving Chapley, North York's longest-serving city councillor, passed away Sunday, June 21, 1992, at the age of 68. He had suffered a heart attack last Thursday while attending a community hearing in his ward.

I knew Irving Chapley well and long before he was elected to North York council. When you consider he had served on that council for 17 years, it has been a long time indeed. Irving and I were both active in B'nai Brith before we entered the political arena. Irving's North York ward 7 overlaps my provincial Wilson Heights riding, and even though we had different political affiliations, we always cooperated during the many opportunities we had to interact over the years.

In all of the time I knew him, he impressed me with his commitment to his community. He was always available to offer his help and guidance to those who needed him. He served on or chaired many council committees and had a genuine interest in the broader community. His dedication and determination were most evident when one considers that notwithstanding a physically debilitating stroke he suffered a few years ago, he continued his duties as a councillor as well as campaigning successfully in two re-election campaigns.

He will be missed by his constituents, his colleagues, his family and his friends. I'm sure all members will join me in offering our condolences to his wife, Norma, their son, David, and daughter, Rosanne.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The letters "NDP" have taken on a new meaning for the people who live in York, Durham and Peel. The meaning they now have is No Dumps Please. Indeed, if there's anything we can do to see that this government doesn't succeed in having any of the 57 sites selected as landfill sites in York, Peel and Durham, then we will do it.

This government has selected 57 possible sites and it's wrong. They don't consider other options, such as Kirkland Lake, as viable rail-haul options. They're not considering incineration. They're not considering anything except what they have done through Bill 143.

Today I am introducing into the House a private member's bill which will revoke the powers of Bill 143

and remove them for ever and ever. If there's any chance we can get that bill to be considered by this House, then the people around the greater Toronto area will have at least some hope that justice will be done. As it stands from this government right now, there isn't any sense except betrayal. The people feel angry at what's been going on, that this government would come along and choose the most valuable property in Canada, choose land on the Rouge Valley system and the Oak Ridges moraine, choose land that's prime agricultural land and turn down an option such as Kirkland Lake, which is a viable opportunity.

We're angry and this government hasn't any sense of how angry we're going to get.

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF CANADA

Mr Mike Cooper (Kitchener-Wilmot): Today I'd like to recognize one of the service clubs in my community, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada. Two weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the 10th anniversary of the Elks in the Kitchener-Waterloo region. This group has been noted for raising the most money per capita per charity in six out of the past 10 years and is to be congratulated.

As a service club, Elkdom has made substantial contributions to many national and community welfare projects. The national welfare project of the order is the Elks purple cross fund, which provides assistance to needy children in Canada. Its community welfare activities are constant and generous in many diversified activities.

Also during the day I had the pleasure of attending the installation of officers of the Kitchener-Waterloo region Elks Lodge 578 and the Waterloo-Halton region Royal Purple Lodge 356. I would now like to recognize from the Elks the new exalted ruler, John Lockner, and the immediate past exalted ruler, Tom McMillan; from the Royal Purple the new honoured royal lady, Carol Hunter, and the immediate past honoured royal lady, Marianne McMillan.

At that time they presented me with this book, called the History of the Elks in Canada. They've asked me if I would personally donate this to the library so that all members of the Legislature can check it out and find out what good things provided by the Elks are going on in their communities.

NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Mr Michael A. Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin): I was pleased to see that the Minister of Natural Resources has heeded calls from groups expressing their concern and opposition to certain recommendations put forward by the Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee and has extended the public consultation period to September 30.

Announced on May 4 of this year, the ministry had hoped to close off public consultations on June 19. However, the recommendations which propose to extend to all municipalities in the province greater powers to control

tree cutting on private lands within their jurisdiction have proven to be more controversial than the Ministry of Natural Resources had bargained for.

The Tree Bylaws Advisory Committee was set up under the previous government to address concerns about the destruction of private woodlands during the economic boom of the late 1980s. The recommendations have wide-ranging implications for communities in rural and northern Ontario which are dependent on the resource sector of the economy.

For example, extending the Trees Act to include the unorganized municipalities is of great concern, as it extends the control of the MNR over private lands within these municipalities. This extension of power to the ministry fundamentally changes the arrangements under which many of the resource industries currently operate. Given this, public opinion must be taken into account before such a move is implemented.

The principles which lie behind the recommendations of the committee are worthy of support. However, I would impress upon the Minister of Natural Resources that any changes to the Trees Act must be done in a fair and equitable manner, taking into account the different needs and concerns of the communities throughout the province.

1340

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Mrs Margaret Marland (Mississauga South): I am pleased to tell the House that today officials from Astra Pharma Inc, an international pharmaceutical manufacturer located in my riding of Mississauga South, joined researchers from the faculty of health sciences at McMaster University to announce a new research collaboration.

The Astra-McMaster alliance, under which Astra will invest \$3 million over three years, is a pre-clinical research partnership which is expected to produce new insights into chronic inflammatory diseases such as asthma and Crohn's disease. About 1.2 million or 5% of Canadians suffer from asthma, while as many as 200,000 have inflammatory bowel diseases.

Astra's large financial commitment reflects McMaster University's international record of excellence. McMaster was recently ranked first in Canada in both clinical and immunology research by the Institute for Scientific Information. The partnership with Astra will improve McMaster's research capability in the important areas of immunology, respirology and gastroenterology.

I am happy to congratulate both Astra and McMaster on achieving a partnership which will allow them to pursue longer-term research objectives than are usually the case in contracts between universities and pharmaceutical companies. I hope their European-style research partnership will be a catalyst for similar industry-research collaborations in Ontario.

PETERBOROUGH SUMMER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Ms Jenny Carter (Peterborough): I rise today to invite all members of this House to attend the 1992 Peterborough Summer Festival of Lights, which opened Wednesday and continues through to August 15.

For the past six summers the Festival of Lights committee has worked hard to put together a series of outstanding free evening concerts and performances at Crary Park in Peterborough. This year is no exception. Local residents and visitors to Peterborough can enjoy their summer evenings while listening to the music of Ada Lee, a local big band singer, the Good Brothers, Ronnie Hawkins, the Canadian Aces, the Barra MacNeils, Bruce Cockburn and many more. There will be plays by local playwrights.

This year's lineup will also highlight music and events with a distinctive international flair: an Italian celebration day, the Dutch National Youth Fanfare Orchestra, and calypso music with Pan Man Pat. As in previous years, there is also a light show and fireworks display that follows each performance.

Festival chair Fred Anderson, his organizing committee and the many participating sponsors deserve our thanks for their hard work and community spirit.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr Charles Beer (York North): There is a firestorm of protest sweeping York region. Simply put, people are saying no to the megadump.

On Sunday, the Newmarket Era Banner ran a front-page editorial entitled "The Province Has Gone Too Far." This is what the editorial said:

"It's the height of government arrogance and deceit, a disturbing example of how an elected government can fail its people.

"It's the dump—and it's likely to become a curse in the lives of York region residents.

"Residents are not going to accept IWA's (Interim Waste Authority) long list of proposed landfill sites. And they're not going to sit back and let the government play its cards.

"In fact, there's an all-out revolt about to take place—the people against the government."

But the editorial notes clearly that people aren't taking this lying down:

"If there's a positive thread in all this, it's the fact the region is uniting. That hasn't been the case in the past, when each of the communities have often acted alone with little regard for the needs of their neighbours.

"But the dump will change all that.

"Residents and politicians from across York are presenting a consolidated front to oppose the IWA's plans."

Mr Speaker, I've never seen the anger and frustration that I have at all the meetings being held across the region. The Minister of the Environment and this government have got to put a halt to their plans to impose a megadump on York region. There are other options. As the Era Banner concluded, "Environment minister Ruth Grier, you've gone too far!"

ACADEMIC STREAMING

Mr Ted Arnott (Wellington): The Minister of Education persists in insisting that Ontario's school boards must destream grade 9 classes by September 1993. But in his haste to put an NDP stamp on our secondary school system, the

minister is embarking on a path which is fraught with hazard and uncertainty.

The Wellington County Board of Education, its trustees and administration, parents, and District 39 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation have shared with me their grave concerns about the reckless manner in which the Minister of Education is attempting to enforce his unrealistic destreaming edict.

First, it remains unclear whether destreaming is or is not in the best interests of our students. Pilot projects have been undertaken and evaluations have been done, but the minister refuses to publicly disclose the findings of his evaluations.

Second, in a cruel betrayal by a party which made "consultation" a byword in an election campaign, the government has closed the door on parents, students and teachers who will be directly affected by any changes in grade 9 curriculum.

Third, there are legitimate questions about the financing of this program. In Wellington county it's been estimated that destreaming alone will cost \$250,000 and no doubt the beleaguered local taxpayer will be footing the bill.

The Minister of Education should announce today that he is going to rethink his policy in order to make certain that the best interests of the students, not the best interests of the government, are going to be primary. He should immediately release the findings of the evaluations of all destreaming pilot projects to allow a basis for further discussion in the education community. He should announce that he will no longer continue the Liberal government policy of downloading expensive new programs of questionable merit on school boards. Finally, the minister must ensure that he doesn't create a common standard of mediocrity for all our grade 9 students.

JUMELAGE DE WHITBY-LONGUEUIL

M. White (Durham Centre): En 1967, plusieurs groupes religieux et communautaires de Whitby ont payagé en canoé jusqu'à Montréal pour l'Expo 67. Ce groupe avait été accueilli par le maire de Longueuil. Selon sa suggestion, les deux municipalités ont passé des accords et sont devenues officiellement jumelées.

Dès 1969, les célébrations de ce jumelage ont eu lieu annuellement. Ces deux villes se joignent pour apprendre et partager ce qu'elles ont en commun. La ville de Whitby a beaucoup profité de cette expérience. Par exemple, le drapeau de Whitby provient de ce jumelage.

Cette fin de semaine, Longueuil recevra les représentants de Whitby pour la 24^e célébration de son jumelage.

Monsieur le Président, j'espère que notre Assemblée en prendra connaissance et applaudira l'initiative que ces deux villes ont assumée. Je sais que cette rencontre recevra l'appui de toute l'Assemblée.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

JOBS ONTARIO CAPITAL

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): Strategic infrastructure investment is about anticipating the changing needs of the economy, develop-

ing new ways of doing things and opening up opportunities that never existed before.

In this year's budget we announced a new fund which will develop and broaden Ontario's strategic infrastructure while supporting jobs and long-term economic growth. Jobs Ontario Capital is a five-year, \$2.3-billion infrastructure investment program which will support economic restructuring, promote community and social progress, and preserve the environment.

Today I am pleased to announce to the people of Ontario that we are now taking the first concrete steps to meet our goals for this fund.

In the coming days and weeks this government will be announcing \$360 million in projects—projects that we will put into place as quickly as possible in order to give a much-needed boost to the economy.

Together with other Jobs Ontario initiatives—the training fund, Jobs Ontario Youth and the homes fund—Jobs Ontario Capital will help Ontarians get back to work now, and by investing strategically in our infrastructure the projects under Jobs Ontario Capital will support Ontario's transition to a more productive, knowledge-based economy.

This fiscal year alone \$500 million in funding under Jobs Ontario Capital will result in nearly 10,000 direct and indirect jobs for Ontarians.

In the 1990s, with the massive restructuring taking place in our economy, Ontario has an opportunity. We have an opportunity to lead the way by investing in infrastructure projects that will support a new economy. But it requires re-evaluating what our economy needs, taking a second look at how our physical infrastructure works for us and how it can work for us in the future. It also means ensuring there is adequate funding to support new forms of investment.

With Jobs Ontario Capital we are seizing that opportunity.

Starting today with the Minister of the Environment, and over the next few weeks, my colleagues will be announcing Jobs Ontario Capital projects that will help preserve our environment, improve energy efficiency in our public buildings and institutions, increase the number of not-for-profit child care spaces, and expand and improve facilities for science and technology and skills training.

These and other projects to be announced will provide much-needed investment and will create more jobs.

1350

An important element of our approach is achieving co-operation across levels of government. We have established partnerships with the federal government, municipal governments and community groups, and I am pleased to say they will be contributing funding on several of these projects. In addition, we will be consulting with both public and private sector partners to identify and assess opportunities that will have a major and long-term impact.

Our investment in strategic infrastructure, along with our base capital spending, means Ontario's capital investment for this fiscal year will be the highest ever in the province's history. Along with Jobs Ontario Capital, we will invest \$3.4 billion this year to maintain, upgrade and

expand our existing educational and medical facilities and improve our roads, highways and transit systems.

The Jobs Ontario Capital fund will help us refocus some of our public investment in infrastructure projects that are critical to an innovative economy, which in turn is critical to ensuring more and better jobs for the people of this province.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment): It gives me great pleasure today to announce a significant new investment by the Ministry of the Environment in the environmental and economic wellbeing of this province.

With new resources from the Jobs Ontario Capital fund, we are providing a total of \$25 million this fiscal year to more than 80 environmental projects across Ontario. This is the first instalment of a three-year, \$60-million investment in our future. With additional investment expected from communities and other government agencies, the program will encourage the immediate development of environmental facilities worth more than \$110 million.

These are fast-track projects which will start almost immediately in communities large and small throughout Ontario. These projects will provide direct benefits in four ways: They will create more than 1,400 person-years of direct employment over the next three years, improve environmental quality, provide services essential to public health and environmental protection, and strengthen community infrastructure and provide a better environment for economic recovery and growth.

There will be even more indirect employment generated by this new economic activity in the communities and the strengthened economic environment. Our experience has been that one new job created in direct environmental improvement can create opportunities for two more indirect jobs.

To provide an immediate increase in employment, we have specified that construction must start on all of these works by October 1992.

We are investing Jobs Ontario Capital funds in four areas:

More than \$18 million this year for special municipal infrastructure projects worth \$73 million: These will improve water and sewage services in more than 30 municipalities and create more than 900 person-years direct employment over three years. They range in scope from the construction of full communal water and sewage service systems to the installation of zebra mussel control facilities to protect water intakes.

Close to \$3.5 million this year for Great Lakes improvement works worth \$26 million: These projects will help meet our commitment to Great Lakes water quality, clean up local beach contamination and involve more than 300 direct jobs. Some of them provide an immediate start on cleanup measures recommended in a number of community-based remedial action plans addressing areas of concern identified by the International Joint Commission.

Two million dollars this year and \$3.5 million in the next two years will replace contaminated drinking water supplies in two communities. This will result in construc-

tion of facilities worth \$9 million that will ensure safe, clean water for the communities of Angus and Manotick where toxic chemicals have infiltrated local wells. More than 100 person-years will be created in direct employment.

Finally, \$700,000 this year will start work on an \$8-million beaches improvement project in Smiths Falls. This will upgrade sewage treatment, reduce toxic and bacterial discharges from the plant and open Rideau River beaches, as well as providing more than 100 person-years in jobs.

In all of these projects, the Ministry of the Environment is investing Jobs Ontario Capital funds in Ontario communities to provide immediate employment as well as long-term environmental and economic benefits. We are helping these communities create new jobs in a better and healthier environment, an environment that will sustain a stronger, healthier economy.

SKILLS TRAINING FUNDING

FINANCEMENT DE LA FORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE

Hon Richard Allen (Minister of Skills Development): Last year I signed the Canada-Ontario labour force development agreement. The agreement clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Ontario and Canada across a broad range of training, retraining and adjustment issues. It is an important step for economic renewal.

It commits the federal government to recognize our province's share of the national labour force. It also commits Ottawa to recognize the number of Ontario's employed and unemployed workers in determining the level of labour force funding to the province from the federal government.

The federal government is not living up to these commitments. The federal government's actual spending on training in Ontario in 1991-92 fell short by almost \$100 million of the commitment in the agreement. As a result, more than 16,000 Ontarians lost the opportunity to benefit from federally sponsored training in the last fiscal year.

Les dépenses réelles du gouvernement fédéral dans le domaine de la formation en Ontario en 1991-92 ont manqué dans l'ordre de 100 millions de dollars par rapport à l'engagement décrit dans l'entente. Par conséquent, plus de 16 000 personnes en Ontario ont perdu la possibilité de tirer parti des programmes de formation financés par le gouvernement fédéral au cours de l'exercice qui vient de prendre fin.

In 1992-93, that is, the current year, the federal allocation is \$115 million short and this will rob another 18,000 people of the opportunity to train.

The potential of the Canada-Ontario labour force development agreement must not be sacrificed by short-sighted funding decisions by the federal government.

Le potentiel de l'entente Canada-Ontario sur la mise en valeur de la main-d'oeuvre ne doit pas subir le contrecoup des décisions financières irréfléchies de la part du gouvernement fédéral.

These funding cuts are not directed at the Ontario government. They are directed at people: single mothers, older workers, young people, high school dropouts, native people, racial minorities, new Canadians and people with disabilities who should be getting training. They are directed

at organizations that work hard to create training programs to match specific local skills needs. They are directed at Ontario's workers: blue-collar and white-collar, skilled and unskilled, self-employed and unionized, professionals and tradespeople. These people have carried the burden of seven out of every 10 jobs lost in Canada since 1990.

In May there were 581,000 unemployed Ontarians, and many could have benefited from training and would be eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits while taking approved training courses. In many instances, these courses are funded by the province or paid for by the individual. However, because of the lack of adequate funding for income support by the federal government, thousands of Ontarians lost these training opportunities.

The federal government has also failed to live up to other provisions of this agreement. This will limit training opportunities for people who are not eligible for UI benefits. Full details are contained in a news release issued by my ministry today.

My ministry has been trying very hard to resolve this issue since April. It was raised last month at a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial deputy ministers with responsibilities for labour market matters which our province hosted. Recently I wrote Mr Valcourt to register my concerns in the strongest terms personally. There can be no misunderstanding by the federal government of Ontario's position.

Earlier this month Mr Valcourt admitted publicly that people are being turned away from training opportunities funded through the unemployment insurance program because federal money has run out. Since then the national allocation for training has been increased upward, but unfortunately Ontario's share will still not meet the critical needs of thousands of Ontarians, as calculated by our share of the labour market.

1400

The effectiveness of this agreement, like any other, depends upon the commitment of both parties to work together to achieve shared objectives. The Ontario government met its financial commitment under the agreement last year. This year we've allocated \$930 million to training, a 24% increase over last year's funding level.

I am urging the government of Canada in the strongest of terms to restore funding for training programs in Ontario to the levels promised. The federal government's failure to do so will not only stall recovery and weaken Canada's competitiveness but also bring hardship to the lives of thousands of Ontario workers.

Monsieur le Président, j'encourage le gouvernement du Canada le plus vivement possible à rétablir aux programmes fédéraux de formation en Ontario les niveaux de financement promis.

Un refus fédéral à cet égard, aura pour effet non seulement de ralentir la reprise économique en Ontario et d'affaiblir la compétitivité du Canada, mais aussi de soumettre des milliers de travailleurs et travailleuses ontariens à de dures épreuves.

RESPONSES

SKILLS TRAINING FUNDING

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): I'm pleased to respond to the Treasurer's comment, although I would add parenthetically, because of the last statement, that it's odd that you would be so mad at the federal government yet I think in one week provincial personal income tax will be going up at a rate three times the rate that the federal government cut on the working poor. I would say to you that I would be somewhat embarrassed about that, Premier.

JOBS ONTARIO CAPITAL

Mr Gerry Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt): On the jobs announcement by the Treasurer, I would say, Treasurer, that I would hope that you would explain to the people of the province several things in this announcement.

One is that you say this is the highest level of spending in the history of the province. That is only the case because you cut \$400 million out of last year's capital budget to get down below this year's budget. The Premier shakes his head no, but that is a fact. That is a fact, and I'm just saying that you must come clean with the people of Ontario.

The second thing, Treasurer, is that in the budget, as I've said many times, there are fewer jobs in this budget than last year's budget. There are three job programs in here and there is less money spent this year than last year in those three job creation programs. I'm not saying, "Spend, spend, spend"; I'm saying, "Be straight with the people of the province." If you're spending less money this year than last year, tell them that.

I would say, Treasurer, that right now I think the construction people in this province had looked to the anti-recession program to help them. You cut \$400 million out of it. There are 33,000 fewer people working in construction in May of this year than there were in May of last year.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Treasurer and Minister of Economics): You blame us for that?

Mr Phillips: I'm saying to you, Treasurer, that you took \$400 million out of the capital program. All I'm saying is, tell the people of the province what is actually happening in this budget.

We see, Mr Treasurer, the unemployment rate running at, as you know, 10.9%. I will say to you, Treasurer, that the thing that will create jobs is a partnership among the players: government, labour and the management and the businesses of this province. There's no question of a doubt that over the next few months, instead of those partners working together we are going to have a battle. There's no question of that, and we're not going to see the job creation that all of us want to see.

I would say to you, Treasurer, that if you look at this announcement, the reason there's more money this year than last year is because you cut \$400 million out. There is less money being spent on those three programs in this year's budget than there was last year. I am not saying, "Spend more"; I'm just saying, "Come clean with the people of Ontario so they know what is going to happen in terms of job creation."

SKILLS TRAINING FUNDING

Mr Steven Offer (Mississauga North): I'll respond to the statement by the Minister of Skills Development, a statement of finger pointing. The minister has stood in his place and has said what a rotten job the federal Tories are doing, but it is clear that those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. All of the training initiatives by that government are focused on people on social assistance when clearly people should be able to access training before going on welfare to qualify.

I've received a letter of help from people who are without a job, and they are asking why the Transitions retraining program currently takes 12 to 16 weeks for a simple two-page application before the unemployed can begin a retraining program. They're asking why on one hand that government preaches the benefits of worker retraining but in reality it has created a situation where people lose homes and face financial ruin.

We know that your much-ballyhooed wage protection plan is now mired in backlog and indecision. You and your colleague the Minister of Labour have known for months about these programs and yet you have chosen to do nothing. You stand here today and you wave and finger-point at the federal Tories, but let me tell you that the stone you have thrown has ricocheted and has fallen squarely back on your glass house of indecision and mismanagement.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I want to respond, in the few seconds that are left, to the statement made by the Minister of the Environment. She says in her opening line that it gives her great pleasure to announce a significant new investment. The only thing that's new in the announcement is probably the level of cynicism the minister raises by calling it "new investment." Quite frankly, it borders on the fraudulent for her to stand here and say that this is new investment.

There's not one new nickel in terms of environmental capital projects in this announcement today. In fact, there's less money being spent this year on the types of projects she has announced than has ever been spent before. Former governments have done this as a matter of course and as a matter of routine; they have not tried to dress it up in some fashion as she has done here. Projects such as the replacement of drinking water facilities have often been done through the environmental securities fund and through other capital projects.

The fact of the matter is that this minister has seen her budget reduced in terms of capital projects. No matter how she packages it, this is not new money, and to call it that is the height of error.

JOBS ONTARIO CAPITAL

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): I'm going to be very brief in my remarks to the Treasurer's announcement because that's all it deserves. We had hoped that the Treasurer would come back from his overseas jaunt to announce to the Legislature that he was attracting new investment to Ontario. We are very disappointed that he

has no announcement of new investment for Ontario in spite of his efforts.

We seem to be treated to two kinds of statements by this government: those that don't mean anything and are made in this Legislature, and those that do mean something and are made either outside this Legislature or in fact are never made. Unfortunately the Treasurer's comments today, in regurgitating some of the remarks he has already made, fit into the former and not the latter.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): The Minister of the Environment has not announced anything new. What we're seeing today is the old water and sewer grants packaged in an attractive way to make us think that the Minister of the Environment is doing something special.

There are three major failures this minister has not yet addressed since she has been minister.

We have the Ontario water secretariat. There's a corporation still on hold that's going to do something about the water in this province. Nothing has happened on that yet. We keep waiting. I look for an announcement on that one.

This government has no position on the International Joint Commission regarding the Great Lakes. We keep on doing something for it, but I'll tell you, Mr Speaker, that all we need is a big storm and the people in Toronto won't be able to go swimming again. The International Joint Commission needs this government to make a commitment and it has not done it.

Before this government was elected it was going to do something with the safe drinking water act, and much to the regret of all of us, its Agenda for People has not been fulfilled on that one.

Though they touch on each of these elements with this announcement, they have not yet grasped the whole picture and begun to do something with it. So for the Honourable Ruth Grier to stand with great pride in this House as if she's doing something wonderful—she hasn't begun to spend the money from the tire tax. There is well over \$150 million in there, if my numbers are correct—they're probably not; it's probably more than that—and you're only spending about \$25 million here and making an awful lot of noise about it.

There is much for this government to do. You've taken money away from us. You've taken it out of our taxes, you've taken it out with the tire tax and now you're doling it out a penny at a time. You're not beginning to touch on the needs of this province when it comes to the environment. So Madam Grier, Mr Rae and your government, please take seriously the environment and the promises you made before you were elected, because as it stands now, what we have here is nothing that is really worth making a big announcement about.

1410

SKILLS TRAINING FUNDING

Mrs Dianne Cunningham (London North): I have to say I'm totally bewildered by the announcement by the minister in the House today. When we were together some eight months ago we were told that the federal government

would set aside some \$846 million for training. We were thrilled about that. Last year there were some \$463 million put forth, which showed an increase of some \$383.1 million. This year, given the minister's numbers today, we're told that last year they had spent \$748.3 million, and over the year before that's an increase of \$285 million. And we're complaining? That's a tremendous commitment to training in this province: \$285 million in new money. Yes, it is a shortfall of \$100 million, but it's almost \$300 million more than the year before.

What I think we need in this House is a lot of fairness, and I'm embarrassed by this statement today. What we should be talking about is the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board, how well we're doing in setting up a training system for the province of Ontario, how well we ought to be working to get our business, education and labour partners working together, and the positive things we can do in Ontario for our young people.

We're talking today about not working for single mothers. The single mothers are out of jobs. They won't even be allowed to cross picket lines to go to work with the new legislation that's coming down. They won't be allowed to go to work.

The Ontario government has said, the Premier said—Mr Premier, I hope you're listening—that training should be the responsibility of the provinces. We're going to need a lot of help in Ontario because the only program we have right now that we're totally responsible for is Transitions. Does anybody here know about Transitions? Forty-five years of age and over. I'm embarrassed to stand here, Mr Speaker, but I've been involved in that program for four years and I have to tell you, the waiting list is so long we're not beginning to meet the needs of Ontario workers with the only Ontario program. Good luck to Ontarians. They have to do it by themselves.

EXTENDED HOURS OF MEETING

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I just note, for the benefit of other members in the House, that I've provided you with a copy of the submissions I intend to make and I have here copies of the submissions for the Clerk, the government House leader and the government chief whip. If I could just get a page to deliver these, then I'll proceed with my submission.

Mr Speaker, the gist of this submission is that, pursuant to standing order 27(g), you as Speaker are required to defer the taking of the vote to—and I'm quoting now from the standing orders—"not later than 6 pm on the next sessional day," where the House is considering, as it is right now, a government motion to extend the hours of meeting of the House during the last eight sessional days in June or December.

First of all, I want to point out that standing order 6(b)(i) permits a minister of the crown, with notice, to propose that the hours of the meeting of the House be extended during any or all of the last eight sessional days in June or December or both. Standing order 6(b)(i) reads as follows: "During the last eight sessional days in June and December, a motion to extend the hours of meeting during the remaining days in each period provided for in

clause (a) may be proposed, with notice, by a minister of the crown." I simply point out that that notice has been given. The motion is on the order paper and indeed it has been debated for almost two hours in this House.

Second, the standing orders point out that no such motion can require the House to meet beyond 12 midnight on any particular sessional day.

Third, the debate on a motion to extend the hours of meeting is limited to two hours under standing order 6(b)(iii), which reads as follows: "Not more than two hours after the commencement of the proceedings on such a motion, the Speaker shall put every question necessary to dispose of the motion. If a recorded vote is requested by five members, the division bells shall be limited to 15 minutes." I underscore the call there for division bells of 15 minutes.

Fourth, standing order 27(g) requires the Speaker to defer the taking of a vote when requested to do so by any chief whip during the ringing of divisional bells, except where a deferred vote is prohibited under standing order 27(h).

Standing order 27(g) reads as follows: "During the ringing of division bells as provided in clause (f), the vote may be deferred at the request of any chief whip of a recognized party in the House. The Speaker shall then defer the taking of the vote to a specified time, but not later than 6 pm on the next sessional day, at which time the bells shall be rung for not more than five minutes." In the copy I've provided you with, sir, I have emphasized the opening phrase, which is, "During the ringing of division bells as provided in clause (f)."

I submit to you, sir, that the reference to clause (f), which simply provides for 30-minute bells unless the standing orders provide for some other length of time, does not restrict or qualify the right to defer a vote under section 27(g). I'll quote standing order 27(f), which reads as follows: "Except as otherwise provided in the standing orders the division bells shall be limited to 30 minutes." In other words, 27(f) simply says that the bells, on any division, shall ring for 30 minutes unless somewhere else in the standing orders there is another time specified, but it does not qualify or in any way restrict the question of deferral.

Sixth, I would submit to you, sir, that the only restriction on the right to defer a vote—again, the issue here for your decision is the right to defer a vote—is set out in standing order 27(h), and that reads as follows: "Divisions requested on motions to adjourn the House or the debate, that the Chair of a committee of the whole House report progress and ask leave to meet again or leave the chair, and for closure shall not be deferred." In other words, there are specific instances where, even if a chief whip asks that the vote be deferred to the next sessional day, you as Speaker are required to refuse that request.

It's my submission to you that this section of the standing orders is comprehensive, that is, that it lists all of those situations where deferrals are not permitted, and that by implication every other case where a deferral is requested must be acceded to by you, sir.

Seventh, I submit to you, sir, that while the primary purpose of the right to defer a vote under standing order

27(g) may have been to assist the government in avoiding the loss of a vote on a substantive motion or bill for want of enough members present to carry the government motion or bill, the standing orders permit any chief whip to require that a vote be deferred except where prohibited under standing order 27(h). I reiterate that when these standing orders were written, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the purpose of the order, the intention, was to ensure that the government members could get enough members in the House by way of deferral to a next day to ensure that the government's position on the bill or motion be carried.

Eighth, the standing orders, I suggest to you, are clear as to which votes may be deferred. In other words, the standing orders set out comprehensively whether or not a vote can be deferred. Standing order 1(a) requires that you as Speaker conduct the proceedings of this assembly in accordance with the standing orders. That standing order says, "The proceedings in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and in all committees of the assembly shall be conducted according to the following standing orders," including of course those standing orders under section 27 which deal with deferral.

Now, the category of votes which may not be deferred, as itemized in standing order 27(h), are exclusively dilatory motions. For the benefit of those who might not understand that phrase, a dilatory motion is one that simply deals with things like the adjournment of the House or the adjournment of the debate. In contrast, sir, I would submit to you that a motion to extend the hours of the House is not a dilatory motion but a substantive one dealt with specifically and comprehensively in the standing orders.

I would submit to you in conclusion, sir, that a request to defer a vote to extend the hours of the House under standing order 6(b)(i) ought not to be included, by inference or by implication or by reference to historically what has been done, in the categories of vote that may not be deferred. I think the standing orders are clear on that matter.

1420

Finally, I submit to you that you are now required to accede to a request by a chief whip to defer a motion under standing order 6(b)(i). This is obviously relevant because the motion to extend the hours is now before us, and in fact there are only but a few seconds left on that debate. I would submit to you that this is not a question of potential, it is not a hypothetical situation. The matter is on the order paper today. We presume it's going to be called and there would be no opportunity to raise this point of order with you after you have called for the vote because, as the standing orders say, it is not permitted to enter into the debate after the bells have rung, nor before the taking of the vote once the members have gathered in the chamber.

The other thing I want to point out to you, sir, is that I think it's important that you reflect on this matter. I know you've had an opportunity to consult with the Clerk since I gave you my submissions earlier on in the day during members' statements. Nevertheless, I think this is an extremely important point. The debate on this issue and on the question of extension of hours has been fractious at times. This issue is central to what is going to be happening this afternoon.

So rather than simply rule on this matter, I think it would be appropriate, first of all, to hear from the other House leaders, should they care to comment on it, or our own House leader, should he care to comment on it, and then reflect on the submissions that have been made, perhaps look at some of the precedents in our parliamentary tradition. I believe strongly, sir, that having done that, you will find that the only alternative you have in the face of a request to defer the vote until tomorrow will be to accede to that request.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Thank you to the member for York Centre. Are there any other contributions to this point of order?

I must first commend the member for York Centre for, first of all, notifying the Speaker in advance and providing his documentation in writing. Indeed, he has an interesting argument with respect to a deferred vote.

I must tell him, however, that it is very awkward for a Speaker to deal with hypothetical situations. If, as the proceedings unfold this afternoon, we do in fact reach a point where there will be a call for a vote, then of course at that moment it would be appropriate for the Speaker to indicate what the ruling should be with respect to the matter the member has raised.

But I reiterate that I appreciate the approach the member has taken. It's entirely consistent with the appropriate approach to be taken with serious matters like these.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On this point of order, Mr Speaker: While I appreciate your comments in terms of talking about hypotheticals, as you know, I have the floor for a short time for the remaining part of this debate. I would assume that if no objection is made, at that point the question will be put to the House. The bells will start to ring, an approach will be made perhaps by one of the whips of one of the parties asking for a deferred vote. While the bells are ringing, it's going to be impossible for a member to raise a point of order. Could you clarify when the point of order could be put again?

The Speaker: To the member for Carleton, indeed I appreciate the concern he raises. I can assure him that prior to there being a call for a vote, the House will be informed as to whether or not the member for York Centre's request for a deferment will be in order. I know, however, that while the scenario outlined by the member for Carleton may in fact take place, that same scenario has been put to this House on a number of other occasions, and it has not happened.

It is time for oral questions and the member for Bruce.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): Mr Speaker, just before we get there, technically what you're asking us to do, therefore, is file our request for a deferral during the ringing of the bells this afternoon. At that point, are you also asking that we be allowed, prior to the vote being put, to actually make our case to you? We have to understand that.

The Speaker: Perhaps the member for Bruce misunderstood what I was saying. Prior to any bell-ringing, there will be a ruling from the Chair. You will know in advance before the bells ring.

Mr Elston: But, Mr Speaker, on that point, we should be able to put the case. You basically said that the point of order is not yet in order because it is hypothetical. I only wish you to advise that we have an opportunity, once the point of order is in order, for each of the parties to speak to it. At that time, it seems to me, you must hear us in helping you come to a conclusion, bearing in mind that you have already ruled that the member from my party has not got a point of order at this point.

The Speaker: To the member for Bruce: The member for York Centre has brought a proposal before me. He is asking for a ruling. I have not given him a ruling. I have indicated to the House that I will deliver a ruling prior to the vote being called so that the House is entirely clear as to whether or not the member's request is in order.

Mr Elston: But only if there is a filing.

The Speaker: I'm not sure how else I can explain this, except to say that the member has presented an argument, and I will consider the argument and the House will be informed prior to the possibility of the debate being terminated, when the member for Carleton has the floor, and a bell being rung. There is sufficient time to make that happen between now and the end of routine proceedings.

It is time for oral questions; the Leader of the Opposition.

SPEAKER'S STAFF

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: On Thursday after the House was adjourned I informed my constituency office of what had happened in the House in case some constituents had been calling me. I informed my constituency office that the New Democratic Party was unable to have 20 of its 74 members here in order to maintain a quorum, which I have always viewed as the government's responsibility. My constituency office passed that information along to various callers.

In the afternoon I got a call from one Paul Dewar, the constituency assistant for the member for Ottawa Centre, the Minister of Housing. Mr Dewar asked my staff why they were lying to the public about what had happened in the Legislature that morning. He also conveyed to my staff that he had spoken to your office, Mr Speaker, and was told that I and my staff were lying to the public.

I do not believe that this is the purpose of the constituency office or the budget we are given as members to help our constituents with problems and with dealing with the government of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly. I do believe that other members' privileges are being abrogated or injured by the fact that this one constituency office assistant believes that his job is that of a politician and the interpretation of what is right and what is wrong. I do not believe that any constituency office assistant should tell another member's staff that they are lying or they are not lying—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): To the member for Carleton: I appreciate his concern. Unfortunately, it is something which occurred outside of the chamber, outside of the Speaker's jurisdiction. Certainly it is a matter which is of concern to him. He may wish to raise it with the

individual involved or that particular person's office, the member with whom that person's employed. But it is not something in which the Speaker can be of any assistance to you, and that I regret.

The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Sterling: But, Mr Speaker, on this same point of privilege, this constituency office assistant indicated that your staff was telling him that I was lying. That's what your staff is alleged to have done.

The Speaker: I'm sorry, I misunderstood. I thought you were talking about the member for Ottawa Centre. If indeed it's an allegation against the Speaker's staff, of course I take that very seriously. I'm more than pleased to investigate. I would appreciate it if the member for Carleton would forward to me all of the details which he has in his possession. I can assure you that of course at no time would I be sending a message to anyone's constituency office with respect to the routines of the House, unless of course it was a request by a particular member for information.

The Leader of the Opposition with her first question.

1430

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): On a very brief point of order, Mr Speaker, before proceeding to my question: Recognizing that the Speaker has just offered important clarifications on a point of order and a point of privilege just after calling for question period to begin, the clock has been running. Would it be in order to ask that the clock be reset?

The Speaker: We had started into oral questions. I had recognized the leader in fact more than once. I realize we've used a bit of time. Perhaps by restricting interjections we will more than make up for the lost time. I invite the member to place her first question.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My first question is for the Premier. I once again refer to the government throne speech which pronounced that a strong economy depends on a flourishing business sector.

Just recently, in an effort to indicate its interest in business views, the government set up a labour-management advisory committee to encourage government, business and labour to work more closely together. But the New Democratic Party has now sent out yet another anti-business fund-raising letter slamming business concerns and telling business to back off any criticisms of the government; and over the weekend the Premier attacked the business community in his speech at the NDP convention with the supposedly terrible accusation that in corporate boardrooms, many of them in law firms, bizarre faxes are being exchanged back and forth and money is being spent like never before.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us how these attacks on the business community help to encourage business and investment confidence in the province. How will they help to

foster the new partnership between business and government that was promised in the throne speech and the budget?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I appreciate a great deal the leader's reference to our very successful convention over the weekend.

What I said at the convention is what I would say anywhere, that is, that we are engaged now as a government in the environmental field, in a number of fields, in some very successful, positive and constructive consultations with the business community. We look forward to a similarly successful consultation with respect to labour relations reform. I have asked a number of people to join with me in a constructive dialogue on improving labour-management relations. I talked about that in my speech on Saturday.

I also made reference on a number of occasions and I would make reference again—and the leader of the Liberal Party would be certainly aware—to the fact that at the same time there is a very substantial lobby going on with respect to the activities of this government. It would be rather unusual for the Premier of the province not to be aware of it, not to be aware of the amount of money being spent in that lobby and in that campaign, from billboards to all kinds of other things.

I simply point out that the government is determined to listen to constructive and positive comments and determined to work with the business community in that light, but we will not be deterred from the essence of our agenda by whatever lobby, however powerful. That's a comment I would make in this Legislature as well as anywhere else in the province.

Mrs McLeod: The Premier, in all honesty, will acknowledge that his tone in the House today is somewhat different from the tone he used at the NDP convention on the weekend. Perhaps the Premier, who made some reference during the course of the convention to getting away from rhetoric-bashing rhetoric, would address the specifics of the question I am raising today, that is, the anti-business fund-raising letter sent out by his party. He will be well aware that this is not the first time the NDP has directly attacked the business community in this kind of mailing.

Last fall, when the party put out a business-bashing fund-raising letter, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology said—and I believe it was similar to what the Premier said at the time—"Rhetoric of any kind isn't helpful at this time. Any message that suggests that this government is anti-business is not very constructive and I certainly would not be very happy with that." At that time the minister promised that he would talk to his party about stopping its anti-business rhetoric.

I would ask the Premier whether he would indicate whether he or any member of his cabinet has in fact discussed this issue with party officials. Has he tried to stop this kind of rhetoric, and what action will he now take to repair the damage created by his recent remarks and this newsletter?

Hon Mr Rae: There will be all kinds of different views expressed from time to time on a number of issues,

but I think the leadership of the business community and the members of the business community know full well that the Treasurer presented a budget which was constructive, which was positive and which was well received.

The Leader of the Opposition will also be aware of a number of other measures we've taken to encourage investment. IBM, for example: The Minister of Skills Development attended an opening at IBM just a few days ago where they announced a \$240-million investment in Ontario, the largest private sector training institute anywhere in the country. That speaks loudly of this government's relationship with and its positive attitude towards the business community, at the same time as the political reality that we know full well that the billboards are going up.

Obviously we are going to try to mobilize opinion, generally speaking, as a political party, in defence of the efforts of this government on behalf of all the people in Ontario.

Mrs McLeod: We are most certainly aware that the government is sending out different messages at different times in different places; there is no question about that. It's quite clear that the Premier is sending out different messages about business in Ontario, depending on whether he is promoting the Ontario business climate to the investment community in New York or whether he's bashing business in front of his NDP delegates.

Either this government wants to be supportive of business in this province, in which case the Premier's convention remarks and the recent Marzetti fund-raising letter are shameful and damaging rhetoric which demand a full public apology, or else this government's pro-business messages are simply a sham and this government has indeed declared war with the business community. I wonder if the Premier could explain which is true and how he can possibly talk about partnerships when his government and his party continue to attack one of the partners.

Hon Mr Rae: I'm not the one who's putting up the billboards indicating the positions of this government or making those kinds of statements about the NDP or about the direction of government policy. That's not what we're doing. We're working in a constructive way and, yes, in a tough-minded way.

While the Leader of the Opposition is on her feet talking about consistency, I am reminded of a statement she made in the London Free Press on March 12, 1992. She was asked a question about adversarial politics and about consensus, and she said:

"You know, I tend not to talk about consensus, because I don't think that's very often achievable in public policy. I talk about a different kind of consultation. If you're able to achieve consensus by bringing people together to solve problems, so much the better, but the reality is"—and this is what the Leader of the Opposition was stating in March—"in public policy you rarely get consensus. At the end of the day, you probably have to make a decision that isn't going to please everybody."

Those are wise words and I would say to the honourable member that perhaps she should reflect on those in

terms of her own approach in criticizing this government for the decisions that it's making.

Mrs McLeod: Mr Speaker, if I were to raise a point of order, if we were to actually expect relevant responses to questions asked in this House, it would be a very valid point of order. On any occasion when the Premier asks me to defend my particular statements or the policies of my caucus or my party, I am more than happy to defend them. Question period does not usually give me an opportunity to do that, but if the rules of the House could be suspended to allow me to speak to it, I would be delighted to have that opportunity.

USE OF CREDIT CARDS

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): In the meantime, Mr Speaker, unless the government House leader is prepared to move the suspension of rules to give me that opportunity, I'll direct my second question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I would simply like to ask the minister what she thinks about letting people use credit cards to buy their groceries in supermarkets.

Hon Marilyn Churley (Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations): I believe that in the province of Ontario there have been some supermarkets for some time that have been using credit cards. At this point there is more consultation and more interest in grocery stores using credit cards. I don't think a decision has been made on that, but I would like to point out that in Ontario there has been credit card use for some time now.

Mrs McLeod: I note that the minister refers to consultation, but I do have a page from a confidential cabinet document which was recently shared with us. The document shows that the ministry has already recommended to cabinet that consumers be allowed to use credit cards to pay for their groceries and to buy alcohol at the LCBO stores and has also recommended that the Attorney General consider allowing credit cards to be used for the payments of fines and penalties.

I would ask the minister whether this is really a priority for a government that should be dealing with the serious issues caused by the most serious recession in 60 years. Is letting unemployed people use credit cards to buy their groceries part of the government's comprehensive plan to address economic renewal in its vision of Ontario?

1440

Hon Ms Churley: As I've said already, there are a number of grocery stores in the province of Ontario which have been using credit cards for some time. Certainly this government has a lot on its agenda. One of the things that we do do is respond to requests from the public and from business, and this is a question that has been put before us.

It is something that we have been looking at, and in view of the fact that there already is in existence credit cards being used, and in view of the changes in consumers' buying patterns over the years, yes, it is certainly something in terms of consumer requests and business requests that of course we are taking a look at.

Mrs McLeod: We raise the question because we have some reason to be concerned about sudden changes in policy

and direction without consultation, based on the record of this government. But we also want to use this question as an opportunity to raise some inconsistencies we see in this government's approach.

I would suggest, for example, that the NDP government, when it announced its plans to bring casino gambling to Ontario, at the same time cut off its funding to the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling. Now we see that the government that is promoting the increased use of credit cards is exactly the same government that has refused to fund credit counselling agencies in the province of Ontario.

I would just ask why this government is making it easier for people to get into debt in these difficult times, while at the same time it's cutting off the only source of counselling for people who get caught in the system. As the minister makes it easier for people to get credit, will she also renew the funding for credit counselling agencies?

Hon Ms Churley: The reality is that the marketplace has changed over the last several years, and I think the Leader of the Opposition knows that.

More and more people today are using credit cards and are requesting the ability to use them for convenience. I don't think it's in the interests of the Leader of the Opposition to be patronizing or paternalistic towards people's choices as to how they shop and how they use their money.

These days the reality is that more and more people have credit cards, fewer and fewer people want to carry money—and that's particularly true in larger urban centres—and prefer to carry credit cards. These are things that we as a government have the responsibility to look at when we are getting requests from consumers to do so.

GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a question for the Premier following up on the question from the leader of the Liberal Party. Premier, you presented this past weekend a dramatic conspiracy theory to the party faithful, in that you suggested that an assassination plot, if you like, is brewing in the backrooms and boardrooms of Ontario, a plot to assassinate the NDP government.

Premier, given that this kind of rhetoric is very divisive, given that this kind of rhetoric is most unproductive, given that this kind of rhetoric not only makes it much more difficult to bring government and business and labour together in this province but is divisive as well to our image across Canada and to other jurisdictions, given all of that, I would like to give you an opportunity here today in the Legislature to explain to us if this was simply rhetoric for the party faithful, from whom you were under attack, or if you really believe there is a backroom conspiracy being hatched against you and your government.

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I would say to the leader of the third party that his use of the words "assassinate" and "assassination", I find personally deplorable on his part. I really do. If he wants to stand in his place and talk about the use of rhetoric, I hope he will reflect on the fact that those are the kinds of words that really don't help anybody in terms of things. That's what I'm saying—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Order.

Hon Mr Rae: I'll let you make the choice; that's right. Let me turn to the—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Interjection.

The Speaker: The member for Etobicoke West.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Premier? Supplementary?

Mr Harris: Premier, that is exactly the question and that is exactly the problem. If the kind of language you used on the weekend had come from the street corner, if that kind of language had come in the back barroom, it might have gone unnoticed, but it came from the Premier of the province of Ontario. That's why it was so embarrassing: language like accusing the business community of "hijacking democracy," to the job creators of this province, "We do know that in the corporate boardrooms there are these bizarre faxes being exchanged back and forth, money being spent in ways that has never been spent before."

I would ask you this, Premier: Realizing, as you obviously forget from time to time, that you are the final arbitrator, that you are the Premier of the province of Ontario, not the head of some outlandish opposition party trying to make a point—you're the Premier of the province of Ontario—would you not agree with me that the kind of rhetoric you are using is most divisive and does nothing to bring the government and the business community and labour closer together in this province, as we all agree needs to be done?

Hon Mr Rae: I would return the compliment and say to the honourable member that the rhetoric he has used today and the language he has used today have been divisive and I would say very unhelpful in terms of trying to create a civilized debate in the province, and I would say that to him directly.

Mr Harris: The party hacks and the "Back off, eh" letters and the rhetoric there—we've raised these issues. We assumed that perhaps some people in the party had run amok. But now when we hear the words right from the Premier's lips and find out that you condone this kind of rhetoric, it is very, very worrisome to all of us in this province.

Mr Premier, I would ask you this: When your House leader has a modest disagreement with other House leaders, you proceed, for the first time in the history of this Legislature, with debate unilaterally on rule changes. Mr Premier, when you had a disagreement in your government with doctors in northern Ontario, it was okay to take them apart, lie and slander to quell that opposition. Now, Premier, when you, as Premier—

The Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The leader of the third party I'm sure would not want to be directly accusing anyone in the

House of lying. It's one thing to repeat what has been said outside the House, but that's not what I heard.

Mr Harris: Let me clarify. Have you not learned, Premier, that slandering those who disagree with your public policy is not a good way to bring people together in this province?

Hon Mr Rae: My sense of what is happening in the province is that despite the claims that are being made by people like the leader of the third party with respect to our relationship with the business community, when you look practically at what's happening day after day in terms of the daily relations, when you look at the improvements that are taking place with respect to the investment activity in the province, when you look at major decisions that are being taken by corporations like Ford and IBM, and other decisions which we hope very much are coming, when you look at the Chrysler announcements which have been made with respect to Brampton and so on, we see some very positive signs.

At the same time, I would say to the leader of the third party, we also intend to defend as vigorously as we can the activities and agenda of this government and to point out as clearly as we can that an awful lot of money is being raised and spent in terms of the campaigns against this government. It would be a rather naïve Premier who didn't take note of that fact and didn't simply want to state that we know that's going on and we don't intend to be deterred from our agenda, which is exactly the case.

The Speaker: New question.

Mr Harris: So you quell free speech in here and slander the opposition, anybody who is opposed to your agenda.

1450

ONTARIO HYDRO CONTRACTS

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): My second question is to the Minister of Energy. I have obtained documents showing that Ontario Hydro, I think as we speak, is in the process of finalizing an agreement with Bell Canada and Northern Telecom. This agreement, reportedly worth as much as \$10 million, is to buy an administrative telecommunications system for head office. In other words, lots and lots of telephones. Minister, this contract was not tendered. Why are you negotiating exclusively with Bell for \$10-million worth of phones?

Hon Brian A. Charlton (acting Minister of Energy): The leader of the third party raises a question about a particular contract which, he's right, hasn't been tendered. It also hasn't been let. When he's got something to raise here about procedures Hydro pursues that are inappropriate, perhaps he can stand in the House and raise them.

Mr Harris: There are no tenders, as the minister has just confirmed. What we are dealing with here is an exclusive negotiation.

I also received information that this is part of a larger package called a "strategic procurement agreement." This larger agreement gives Bell Canada the exclusive right to fulfil all telecommunications products and services without ever having to go to tender. Minister, why is Hydro,

one monopoly, in the middle of negotiating this kind of agreement with Bell, another monopoly, to shut everybody else out of any tendering, any future access to this market? Do you, Mr Minister, agree with the tendering process as the means to go to the marketplace and get the best price or are you in favour of the two monopolies negotiating mutually exclusively with each other?

Hon Mr Charlton: Again the leader of the third party stands in his place in this House and makes accusations, as he has on a number of occasions before, occasions when he was not correct.

I will look into the matter the leader of the third party has raised, but there has been no contract let in the case he raises. I'll look into the specifics of the process to date and report back to the House.

It should be pointed out—and I'll repeat, because he wasn't here to respond to the answers that were given to the last questions he raised on this very same issue—that Ontario Hydro tenders in the normal way in far more than 75% of the thousands and thousands of contracts it lets every year. It has a set procedure, which it has had for many decades now, for dealing with those other matters that have to be dealt with outside the normal tendering process.

Mr Harris: First of all the minister says I'm wrong, then he says, "I'll look into it." I thought you brought in Marc Eliesen, your hack, to let you know what was going on over there. I've raised these issues before with Hydro. This is \$10 million that didn't go to tender, that is being negotiated right now without tenders. It's part of a much larger agreement, and there are others where the monopoly is trying to negotiate exclusive agreements so that it never has to go to tender. Will you finally investigate what's going on over at Ontario Hydro, take the concerns that are coming forward from all around the province a little more seriously, take your job as minister responsible for this utility a little more seriously and have an open investigation into how Hydro is awarding contracts?

Hon Mr Charlton: I find it really unfortunate the way the leader of the third party behaves here in the House on these kinds of matters. The member has raised these kinds of questions before. I've investigated the matters. He's been shown to be absolutely wrong in the accusations he's made here in the House. I'll look into this matter and report back to the member.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM

Mrs Lyn McLeod (Leader of the Opposition): My question is for the government House leader. The government House leader may have some difficulty in granting me the sincerity of the question I want to ask, but I want to preface my question by saying in all sincerity that none of us relish this war over rules and the procedural wrangling that's been going on in this place over recent days and weeks.

My caucus colleagues and I are willing and in fact we are waiting to get on with a thorough and substantive debate on the legislation that is before this House. As the opposition, we want our opportunity to be able to fulfil our obli-

gation to review the government's plans, propose amendments and represent the views of Ontarians as we have heard and understood them.

I would ask the House leader to explain, as calmly and rationally as possible, why he will not send his government's proposed rule changes to a legislative committee, following tradition and practice in this House, so that we can all turn to the real business of this House and debate the government's legislation and the matters of real public concern.

Hon David S. Cooke (Government House Leader): Just as late as this morning the House leaders for the official opposition and the third party and myself got together and talked about part of the rules package.

I can indicate to the leader of the official opposition that I'm prepared, and have been, to negotiate the rules with the opposition House leaders, but I and the government also insist that there be some changes to the rules that will allow this place to function as other legislatures do right across the country. That means that things like time allocation, so that the government can get its agenda through the House, are fair and reasonable requests.

We wouldn't have to do this if it weren't for what has happened in this place over the last 21 months, much of it led by the Liberal Party, which wouldn't even allow us to get tax bills through for last year's budget until it was well after one year since they'd been introduced.

Mrs McLeod: I'm not going to use this question in order to go back over the record of what in fact this government has presented to the House and the debate that has occurred on it, but I do want to recognize that we do not believe it was simply a coincidence that rule changes were unilaterally introduced by this government, in a way never before preceded in this House, the very same day that the changes to the Ontario Labour Relations Act were introduced.

Clearly there is a need for full and fair and open debate on this very important piece of legislation. It's equally clear that there is a need for full and extensive public consultation on this piece of legislation. One of the issues the government House leader has absolutely refused to discuss with our House leader, over the weeks of discussion about rule changes, is how many weeks of public consultation the government is willing to schedule for the Labour Relations Act.

I would like to ask the government House leader how many weeks of public hearings he feels would allow for a fair, open, thorough discussion of this particular piece of legislation. How much time is he prepared to commit to those public hearings? Or is he telling us all that there is no need for public hearings, since this legislation has already been determined by the government to proceed through without any changes?

Hon Mr Cooke: It's entirely the government's expectation that there will be extensive discussion on second reading, that there will be extensive public hearings, that there will be clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in committee as well, that we'll be back in committee of the

whole and have clause-by-clause during the fall and that we'll have a debate on third reading.

In terms of the request the House leader for the official opposition made to me last week that there be unlimited public hearings, that everybody and anybody in the entire province who makes a request for public hearings will be heard, I told him this was an unrealistic request, that it could not be fulfilled, because he knows the circumstances surrounding this bill, that the bill would never be dealt with. That's exactly what the intention of some people with respect to the OLRA is all about.

Fairness? There will be fairness at second reading and public hearings, clause-by-clause, committee of the whole and third reading. I'm prepared to sit down and talk with the House leader for the official opposition and the House leader for the third party to decide how that package will be dealt with.

1500

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): New question, the leader of the third party.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I have a question for the Premier. Premier, given the answer that has just been given by your House leader concerning the rule changes, given that never in the history of this Legislature until last week has rule changes debate been on them unilaterally without agreement of the other parties, and given that negotiations are under way now with the House leaders on a package that will be considerably different, as your House leader has said, from the package you're asking us to debate today, why are you asking for your government and your cabinet and you, as Premier, to have the power to deal with any legislation in three days, taking away the 30 minutes that's in there to speak, taking away any limits on the speeches; and given that your House leader is saying he plans to have hearings, why is it that in this package you're asking to deal with any bill in three legislative days? Why do you need that power?

I would ask you finally this, Premier: Don't you think it would make more sense to allow the House leaders to carry on with their negotiations so that we see the final package, which we know is going to be different, and call regular government business today instead of wasting another day of the Legislature?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I'll refer that question to the government House leader.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Government House leader.

Hon Mr Cooke: I would agree with the leader of the third party that the sooner we can deal with the rules package and come to a conclusion on the negotiations on the rules package, the better. But if anybody around this place is concerned with making more productive use of the Legislature, I would really ask that it not just be the government that takes a look at that, but that the third party and the official opposition might want to take a look at how this place has operated not just in the last couple of weeks but in the last several months. Last Thursday is a perfect ex-

ample: \$290,000 out the window because of a game played by the third party.

Mr Harris: I understand why the Premier passed the question off. I'd be as embarrassed as he is, if he realized what was going on.

By way of supplementary to the House leader for the government: Given that you and your negotiations have acknowledged that the final rule changes will not be what you asked us to debate last Monday, last Tuesday, last Wednesday, last Thursday, or what you are going to ask us to debate today, and given that we will discuss these till midnight because we don't even know what the final package is, and you know we're not going to agree to give you the power to pass any bill you want any time in the future in three days; given all that, would you not agree it makes more sense to negotiate with House leaders a final conclusion before we recess, that can be debated before we recess, and to call government business today instead of wasting another day in the Legislature, as you are planning to do today?

Hon Mr Cooke: I want the leader of the third party to understand that it was never our intention—and I see nothing in even the current rules package that's before the House for debate—to have a piece of controversial legislation go through the House in three days. That was never the intention.

Interjections.

Mr Harris: We know that, and we know you've agreed to change it. Why are we debating that stupid power when you know it isn't what you want or need?

The Speaker: Minister.

Hon Mr Cooke: The leader of the third party is correct. There are some discussions that have gone on, and I think we're all going to take those discussions back to our caucuses tomorrow. I hope the three of us will be able to get together tomorrow and come up with an agreement that will result in the rules being amended in a way all three political parties can agree with.

NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATION

Mr Pat Hayes (Essex-Kent): My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. A number of land owners have approached me, as I am sure they have other members, and expressed their concerns about the proposed amendments to the Trees Act. I would like the minister to tell us today, if he could, what his intentions are and why he is proposing amendments at this particular time.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources): I know that many members, particularly rural members on all sides in the House, have received questions about this, and I appreciate the member raising it.

As members will know, the previous government, at the request of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, set up an advisory committee that included a number of representatives of municipalities across the province, including one from a northern rural municipality, to look at the Trees Act and review it.

The Trees Act has been in existence in this province since 1946. Under that legislation, only county governments have

the right to pass bylaws related to the control of the cutting of trees on private woodlots. The suggestion was made by the municipalities of Ontario that they would like to have this permissive power extended to other types of municipalities, such as regional municipalities like the Metropolitan government of Toronto, and to smaller municipalities in northern Ontario.

That committee came forward with a report, and we put its recommendations out for consultation. I have extended that consultation period from June of this year until the end of September so that we can get the views of all the interested parties.

Mr Hayes: There is another concern I'd like the minister to be aware of. There are individual land owners who are concerned about their property rights maybe being infringed. I'd like the minister to address that issue, because they are concerned about being able to have control on their own property.

Hon Mr Wildman: That of course is the central interest in it. I want to emphasize that what is proposed is permissive legislation; it is not required. Municipalities would not have to pass bylaws if they did not desire to. Of course, it would be the responsibility of ratepayers and of the land owners involved to ensure that their municipal councils, if the changes are implemented after the consultation period, respond to the concerns of the ratepayers in their own municipalities.

I should also add that whatever happens with regard to this legislation and the municipalities of Ontario, this legislation would not apply on private lands in unorganized townships in northern Ontario.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mr Carman McClelland (Brampton North): I have a question to the Premier. I hope today he will answer the question and not refer it, because Premier, I put the question to you in this form, as directly and as clearly as I can. In 1990, you had no trouble standing in this place or elsewhere and calling the former Premier a liar. It is now evident to many people across this province that the promises you, the Minister of the Environment and the party you lead made during the last election to the people of this province aren't worth the paper they're written on.

I wonder how you now categorize yourself, Premier, given the promises you made with respect to the people in Whitevale, the Rouge Valley; the embarrassment you must have in your failure to live up to those promises; the embarrassment you must have as your minister sitting to your left pawns it off to Interim Waste Authority. You've clearly retreated from your previously piously stated position with respect to the Rouge Valley. How do you justify saying one thing in opposition and doing a completely different thing now that you sit in the Premier's office?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will refer that question to the Minister of the Environment.

Hon Ruth A. Grier (Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for the Greater Toronto Area): And I will say quite categorically that the Premier

has not retreated one step from the position he took in opposition with respect to the Rouge Valley.

1510

Mr McClelland: The fact of the matter, Minister—through you, Mr Speaker—is that you, your Premier and your party raised expectations in the communities of Whitevale, you raised expectations for people who are concerned with the Rouge. You know very well that even today the planning group working in terms of proposing the park have recommended boundaries that place one of your sites directly in the park. Your site in Stouffville affects the headwaters. It sits on the Oak Ridges moraine.

Those communities, those people and those interest groups trusted you and they elected one of your members, in large measure on the strength of the promises and commitment you made. Obviously he had the wool pulled over his eyes, as well as the people of the province. It's no wonder that he's twisting around like a sheet in the wind at the present time.

The fact remains, Minister, that you and your party promised to protect farm land in this province. You promised the people of the village of Whitevale that their land was prime food land, and you said those exact words to them. You and your Premier promised "no dump in the Rouge." Those are your words and those are his words, yet you stand on the first question and say there's no contradiction. I don't know how you can possibly, with even a minimal degree of integrity, stand in your place and say that, after all your sanctimonious statements and a throne speech about integrity in government.

What are these communities to believe now, Minister? What do you say to the people who are concerned about the Rouge, some of whom were meeting here today, and people in Whitevale, in light of your broken promises to them?

Hon Mrs Grier: I say to them with no fear of contradiction that the site for waste within the greater Toronto area will be selected on environmental criteria and will go through an environmental assessment process. That was not the situation the people of Whitevale faced under the previous government.

RACE RELATIONS

Mr W. Donald Cousens (Markham): I'd like to ask the Premier for his permission to direct a question to his parliamentary assistant, Zanana Akande, the member for St Andrew-St Patrick.

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You can't do that. It's against the rules.

Mr Cousens: I can get permission. I've checked with the table.

In May the member for St Andrew-St Patrick was appointed to find a solution to youth unemployment in Ontario and in particular in Toronto. Part of her task was to concentrate on finding jobs for black youth. The report is now complete, and ironically the government has been able to find \$20 million to create 8,500 jobs. Now employers want to know how they can implement this report, how

they can have access to the labour pool and how they can comply with the government's mandate to hire black youth.

It's a good question, it's a series of questions that have been asked, yet Mrs Akande, instead of responding in a manner suitable for someone in her important and sensitive position, answers, "No one seems to have a problem in identifying us when they want to shoot us." Instead of inflammatory language, why couldn't Ms Akande have given a reasonable response to a reasonable question?

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): I will be glad to answer that question or refer it to the member. But in reply to the honourable member's question—and I will answer it as directly as I can—the funding increases that were announced on Friday, June 5, I think the date was, the \$20 million for Jobs Ontario Youth, which would bring it up to \$45.7 million, included not only the \$13.7 million that will go towards the creation of 5,000 new jobs in Toronto, but also \$6.3 million, which the member didn't refer to, with respect to existing programs.

We have increased funding not only for Nortop, but we have increased funding for training opportunities, we've increased funding for the Environmental Youth Corps and we've increased funding for the summer Experience. When you put all those together, you see a substantial increase across the board, as well as the \$13.7 million program which focuses on the 5,000 jobs in southern Ontario.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: Could the Premier authorize the parliamentary assistant to answer the question, as he's empowered so to do under standing order 32(a)?

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Yes, the member for Parry Sound is right. The Premier has the opportunity to refer. He, as I took it, chose instead to answer the question.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. He chose instead to reply to the question. It still would be in order if, on the supplementary, he chose to refer the supplementary; that would be allowable.

Mr Cousens: There's probably no issue more sensitive to more people in our province than the goodwill we can create among all races and all peoples. I know it's a question I wanted to have an answer to. I believe the very statement that was made by the parliamentary assistant to the Premier when she said, "No one seems to have a problem in identifying us when they want to shoot us," was not in fact the answer to the question that was being asked by business people who would like to be able to subscribe to some of this funding that's available. They want to know how they can implement the report. They want to know how they can access this labour pool. They want to know how they can comply with the government's mandate. It's a very serious question, and just to have the answer that the Premier's giving doesn't begin to respond to it.

So I ask the question again—oh, you're keen to answer. I hope I get a good answer.

Hon Mr Rae: I will answer, Mr Speaker. The member can't have it both ways. He sent me over a note saying, "Premier, I have a question for you," which is why I stayed to answer his question. He can hardly take offence when I try to answer the question to the best of my ability.

Let me answer the question as directly as I can to the member and say that our determination has been to have the program accessed clearly through the existing programs which are replaced.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order, the member for Etobicoke West.

Hon Mr Rae: That is the way in which the program will be accessed and that is the direction the program will take.

Mr Cousens: I was very deliberate in sending a note to the Premier in case he were to leave, because only he, as the Premier, could refer such a question to his parliamentary assistant. That's the etiquette I followed.

1520

PROPOSED HIGHWAY

Mr Drummond White (Durham Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Transportation which is essential to my riding and, in fact, to the riding of Durham West. My question is with regard to the technically preferred route for the Highway 401-Highway 407 interlink between Ajax and Whitby. Your ministry commissioned a full study of potential routes, and in January of this year a decision was made for a technically preferred route.

That route was perfect from an engineering standpoint—absolutely marvellous. You can stand at the north end of the proposed route and envision the asphalt and concrete rolling right up over you. In fact, Mr Minister, if you were in Whitby it would be rolling right over you. I'm sure it would be much less expensive than the other routes that were suggested but also socially and environmentally disastrous. On the other hand, the chosen route would slice off Almond village, a significant part of the town of Whitby, from the rest of the town. It would run right by 10,000 people in west Whitby.

Mr Minister, are you satisfied with the report at this point and will you not consider the community's natural habitats that will be destroyed by that route?

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation): I appreciate what is perhaps the most issue-related question of the day. I know of the concern of the member, his sincere interest and his ability to follow this dossier, because we're talking about not only an important but a massive project: the 401 and 400 series coupled at the junction with the 407.

The final decision with reference to the technically preferred route hasn't been made yet. The engineering studies are a most important component of the technically preferred route, but we have to look at the impact on the environment and the human dimension. Social, economic and agricultural components form a natural part.

I appreciate the member's anxiety, but he knows that the human dimension in this instance is at least as important as—in fact more so than—an engineering study,

which is valuable indeed but not the sole source in terms of determination.

Mr White: Thank you, Mr Minister. I appreciate that this issue has not been resolved and that it is still subject to your careful scrutiny. Mr Minister, the town of Ajax has stated that it wishes the route located in a rural portion of the east end of that town. They clearly stated that last spring, Mr Minister.

The town of Whitby most clearly does not want that route slicing through the midst of that town. The region of Durham is in concurrence. Will you not consider the wishes of the locally elected officials and indeed the members for those areas in regard to what will be the best for their communities?

Hon Mr Pouliot: Indeed, Mr Speaker. "Careful scrutiny," no, Mr Speaker; meticulous scrutiny, yes. The offices of MTO are coordinating efforts to have representatives—members of the executive, elected people—brought forth under our auspices, under our umbrella. We are a facilitator in this instance, but we want to make sure that the people whom they represent at every level of government will be given every opportunity to express their concerns. We're doing that as we speak. I wish to thank the member with all the sincerity at my command not only for his question but for his ongoing participation. He is very much part of this project.

CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

M. Bernard Grandmaître (Ottawa-Est) : Ma question, Monsieur le Président, s'adresse au ministre de l'Éducation. Monsieur le Ministre, vous êtes sans doute au courant de la déception et même de la frustration de la section publique du Conseil de langue française d'Ottawa-Carleton depuis que vous avez mis celui-ci en tutelle.

Monsieur le Ministre, on n'apprécie pas le comportement du superviseur nommé par vous, qui est en train de sabrer les programmes de façon unilatérale et même dictatoriale, et certains de ces programmes qui rendront la section publique inférieure aux autres. Les élèves et les parents veulent participer au redressement du bon fonctionnement de leur conseil, mais par contre, le mandat du superviseur les empêche de participer à cette consultation. Monsieur le Ministre, êtes-vous entièrement d'accord avec et au courant de l'approche qu'emploie votre superviseur à Ottawa-Carleton ?

J'ai une deuxième question. Quel espoir ont les élèves et les parents de participer à une telle consultation ?

L'hon Tony Silipo (ministre de l'Éducation) : Je suis content de répondre à cette question et de dire que je suis, évidemment, au courant, d'une certaine manière, en général, de ce que le superviseur est en train de faire. Il a, comme le député le sait, la responsabilité d'agir ; en effet, il a les pouvoirs du conseil scolaire. Donc, même si je suis au courant de ses actions, je dois aussi respecter les actions qu'il prend parce qu'il a le pouvoir du conseil scolaire en ce domaine.

Je suis certainement conscient du fait qu'il y a là des répercussions de la part des étudiants et aussi de la part des parents. J'ai déjà eu des discussions avec les membres du

conseil scolaire sur cette question. Je suis sûr qu'il y aura encore des consultations pour arriver à la manière la plus juste d'élargir une nouvelle structure pour le conseil scolaire.

Je sais qu'il y a des préoccupations qui restent, Monsieur le Président. Je peux assurer le député que je continuerai à me renseigner directement sur la situation pour voir s'il y a d'autres choses au-delà de ce qu'on a déjà fait afin d'assurer les parents qu'on veut continuer d'avoir, dans la région d'Ottawa-Carleton, un niveau d'éducation en langue française qui est juste, qui est propre, et qui est équivalent à ce qu'on a dans le système anglais.

MOTIONS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr Cooke moved that the House do now move to orders of the day.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Call in the members; a 30-minute bell.

1555

The House divided on Mr Cooke's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 65; nays 37.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXTENDED HOURS OF MEETING

Resuming the adjourned debate on government notice of motion number 8 extending the hours of meeting in the House during the weeks of June 15 and June 22, 1992.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): I believe the member for Carleton has the floor.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): As I was so succinctly putting my case, the reason we needed extended hours at this time, the need for changed rules, lies at the foot of the government of the day. They are inefficient, inaccurate and unfocused in what they are doing, and the cause of delay in this Legislature is not the opposition's making, it is the government's making.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): I'd just like to very quickly and succinctly put that it's necessary that we get the 12-hour debate in regard to going to 12 midnight in order to deal with the business of this House for the people of this province. There are many pieces of legislation we need to get to and we're looking forward to getting to that particular business.

The Speaker: The two hours allotted for the debate on this motion have expired. Before putting the question, I would wish to respond with a ruling to the request placed by the member for York Centre. Again I commend him for the style he used, his approach, and a very interesting point of order on a technical matter.

As interesting as the argument is which the member presented, and in very logical fashion, I must rule that our practice in accordance with standing order 27(f), (g) and (h) is extremely clear. Only those votes where a 30-minute bell has been provided can be deferred. An exception to

this is provided in section 27(h), dealing with dilatory motions.

If the honourable member's argumentation were accepted, it would provide for deferral of votes in all cases. For example, the five-minute bells could be deferred. You could have a deferral on first readings and on non-confidence motions, which I don't believe the House would find acceptable, nor perhaps indeed the member. It's not in accordance with the practice we have enjoyed since the rule was introduced, I believe, in 1989. Therefore, I cannot find that the member has a case for deferring the vote.

Mr Gregory S. Sorbara (York Centre): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I appreciate what you've said in your ruling and I know you have consulted on this matter. I agree with you that under our standing orders as they read now, indeed a chief whip can ask for a deferral of a five-minute bell or a 10-minute bell or a 15-minute bell. My argument was not to the effect that the standing orders are what we would want them to be, and, yes, we have not had a request for a deferral of a five-minute bell or a 15-minute bell, but the standing orders as they stand now allow for a deferral.

For you to simply say that you can only defer where there is a 30-minute bell is an interesting proposition, but it's not found in the standing orders. That's not what the standing order says. The standing order says that any vote can be deferred as long as it's a vote referred to in section 27(f). That's what the rules say.

The exceptions to that rule are clearly and specifically set out in section 27(h). I appreciate that the standing orders ought to be changed in that regard, and some day in this House we will have a standing order that only allows for the deferral of certain votes and certain bells, but I reiterate that the standing orders on their face are clear and unequivocal and allow that the vote we are about to have be deferred.

I once again appeal to you not simply to refer to past practice, because past practice is not relevant to this instance. The clear, statutory words of the standing orders must direct your decision. I once again plead with you not to take counsel where counsel does not exist. The rules are clear. It says clearly that this vote we are about to have can be deferred. Our chief whip is going to present a request for a deferral. I implore you to simply rule in this House according to the standing orders.

The Speaker: Just very quickly, because I realize the member wouldn't want to have this construed as the debate of the ruling, I understand full well the point he's making with respect to the potential for making the rules more clear on each and every type of vote and having that in our standing orders. Your Speaker would be absolutely delighted to have the rules so clear-cut that there wasn't any ambiguity. But I must reiterate that in the circumstance he has described, I do not believe it would be proper for the Speaker to exercise the type of latitude the member wishes.

It is time for a vote on government motion number 8. Government motion number 8 was moved in Mr Cooke's name.

1619

The House divided on Mr Cooke's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes—82

Abel, Akande, Allen, Arnott, Bisson, Boyd, Buchanan, Carr, Carter, Charlton, Christopherson, Churley, Cooke, Cooper, Coppen, Cousens, Dadamo, Drainville, Duignan, Eves, Fletcher, Frankford, Gigantes, Grier, Haeck, Hansen, Harnick, Harrington, Harris, Haslam, Hayes, Hope, Huget, Jamison, Johnson, Jordan, Klopp, Kormos, Laughren, Lessard, Mackenzie, Malkowski, Mammoliti, Marchese, Marland, Martel, Martin, Mathysen, McLean, Mills, Morrow, Murdoch (Grey), Murdoch (Sudbury);

O'Connor, Owens, Philip (Etobicoke-Rexdale), Pilkey, Pouliot, Rae, Rizzo, Runciman, Silipo, Sterling, Stockwell, Sutherland, Swarbrick, Tilson, Villeneuve, Ward (Brantford), Wark-Martyn, Waters, Wessinger, White, Wildman, Wilson (Frontenac-Addington), Wilson (Kingston and The Islands), Wilson (Simcoe West), Winninger, Wiseman, Witmer, Wood, Ziemba.

Nays—19

Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Chiarelli, Conway, Cordiano, Eddy, Elston, Fawcett, Grandmaître, Mahoney, McClelland, Offer, O'Neil (Quinte), Phillips (Scarborough-Agincourt), Poole, Scott, Sorbara, Sullivan.

STANDING ORDERS REFORM RÉFORME DU RÈGLEMENT

Resuming the adjourned debate on government notice of motion number 7 on amendments to the standing orders.

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): The member for Parry Sound, you have the floor.

Mr Ernie L. Eves (Parry Sound): Mr Speaker, it's been about a week and a half since I adjourned this debate.

Mr Sean G. Conway (Renfrew North): It was a very fine speech.

Mr Eves: Well, thank you. The member for Renfrew North says it was a fine speech. Well, it was a preamble to a fine speech.

Mr Conway: And my mother liked it a great deal.

Mr Eves: Your mother liked it as well? I'm very pleased that your mother liked it.

Actually, I have point of personal privilege I'd like to get on the record to start, Mr Speaker: It was last Wednesday afternoon, right about 6 o'clock I believe, when feelings were running a little high around this place, that I referred to the Minister of Labour and others in the government and I talked about their Gestapo tactics. I would like to withdraw those remarks here this afternoon before I commence my debate because I don't think it's a parliamentary term.

Mr Ian G. Scott (St George-St David): Why?

Mr Eves: The member for St George-St David says, "Why?" I think I probably could have chosen my words better than "Gestapo" tactics. I think "totalitarian" tactics or "dictatorial" tactics or even "despotic" tactics might

have been far more accurate—and parliamentary, I might add—than the term—

Mr Scott: How about “fascist”?

Mr Eves: Don't try to get me to get in any further than I already am, I say to the member for St George-St David. Thank you very much for your advice, though.

I would like to carry on with my remarks and I would like to carry on with the rationale that the government puts forward for wanting to unilaterally change the rules of this place. Today during question period, my leader put forward a question to the Premier which was directed to the government House leader.

Mr Chris Stockwell (Etobicoke West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm finding it very difficult to hear the speaker. I understand that there's some movement, but I don't think there needs to be quite as much.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Dennis Drainville): Order, please. The honourable member for Etobicoke West has quite rightly pointed out that there is a great deal of talk going on in the House right now. The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor. If the members could either leave the chamber or sit in their seats, it would be helpful.

Mr Eves: As I was saying, during question period today, my leader was asking a question of the Premier, who referred it to the government House leader. He asked why we can't deal with legislation on the order paper. This is the sixth day in a row, I believe, that the order paper has called for two government motions. One was to extend the sitting hours of the House, which we just voted upon, and the other is the government's notice of motion to unilaterally change the standing orders of the Ontario Legislature.

I thought the question my leader asked was a very appropriate and very valid question indeed. The place for dealing with changing the standing orders, the rules of the Legislature, is in House leaders' meetings and in committee: the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, to be more accurate. That's where these rules or these procedures that we follow in this place have been dealt with on previous occasions for the last 125 years. Never before this time have we been debating what we are debating now, and that is unilateral rule changes by the government of the day, whoever that government happened to be.

I think this is a very significant digression from what has gone on in this place and from parliamentary and democratic tradition in this place for the last 125 years. There's a very good reason for that. If we do not work together, three House leaders and three parties, and arrive at some of these decisions by consensus and mutual agreement, then regardless of what has passed—because there have been many majority governments prior to this one in this Legislative Assembly, but it's noteworthy that not one of them has ever felt so hard-pressed that it had to unilaterally propose to change the standing orders, which is what this government notice of motion before us today is all about.

Not only are we supposed to deal with that as opposed to legislation today, but if you believe the government House leader—and I do—we'll be dealing with it until they change the rules of this place. That means we're going to be sitting till midnight tonight debating this notice

of motion instead of doing labour legislation, instead of doing Sunday shopping legislation that the Premier has said he's willing to have a free vote on and instead of dealing with auto insurance, which is a very controversial item.

I note that over the weekend at the NDP convention, there was a lot of flak. The Premier and some of his colleagues had to pay for backing up and not delivering on the commitment they made during the election campaign with respect to restoring the public's right to sue.

Mr Conway: I think it was just simulated protest.

Mr Eves: Oh, you thought it was simulated protest, did you, the member for Renfrew North?

Mr Charles Harnick (Willowdale): Didn't look that simulated to me.

1630

Mr Eves: Well, I don't think the former member for Welland-Thorold was orchestrated in any way, shape or form. I have a great deal of respect for his integrity and I believe him to be genuinely concerned that the governing party, the New Democratic Party of Ontario, has indeed diverged and transgressed quite a bit from its principles enunciated in the election campaign of 1990.

We have all these other pieces of legislation that the government scurried around and put through, as I pointed out over a week ago, during the last week in May and the first week in June. Yet none of them appear on the order paper, nor have they for the last six days. The only two items that have appeared on the Orders and Notices paper in this place for the last six days are: a notice of motion extending the sitting hours of the House during the last eight sessional days of June till midnight, and following that, the government notice of motion to unilaterally change the standing orders of the Legislature of Ontario.

Those obviously were the government's only two priorities in the last six days. They had every opportunity to put anything else they wanted on there. They could've debated the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency Act, Bill 1. That is an act that both the opposition House leader and myself have indicated to the government House leader that we're willing to deal with in a fairly expeditious manner; we realize it's a piece of legislation that has to be dealt with before the House rises. But apparently the government has not got that message. They have one theme and one theme only, and that is to unilaterally change the rules before they deal with any piece of legislation.

We even have relatively simply taxation bills arising out of the budget which actually confer benefits, for a change, unto certain taxpayers in society—I am thinking of the Mining Tax Amendment Act and the Corporations Tax Amendment Act—yet the government won't even call those two very simple bills, Bills 11 and 12, which again we've indicated to the government House leader can be dealt with very expeditiously in this House, but they're not being called. The government intends to debate unilaterally changing the rules of the Legislature for the first time in the history of the province of Ontario.

We have the Ontario Loan Act, which has to be passed in accordance with the budget, Bill 16. We have various education acts, most of which arose out of former Bill

125—the government has broken down that legislation into three or four other pieces of legislation—but none of them are called either; they haven't appeared on the order paper.

We have the Gaming Services Act, which this government seems to be intent upon proceeding with—we know it's indicated it's in favour of casino gambling in the province of Ontario—but they don't think it's important enough to proceed with it other than changing the rules of this place unilaterally before they proceed with any other business in this place.

Mr Conway: You didn't hear the Minister of Natural Resources on that subject this morning, about Parry Sound and certain gaming activities.

Mr Eves: No, I didn't. I understand, Mr Speaker, from the interjection of the member for Renfrew North, that the Minister of Natural Resources indeed was talking or communicating about the problem that we might have with the gaming services bill on native reservations and whether in fact the province would have any jurisdiction over such activity.

Mr Conway: I didn't think Mackenzie King had children.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Conway: Well, I just observed that I didn't think, until I heard Bud Wildman, that Mackenzie King had children. What an interview this morning—I mean, to have heard that.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor.

Mr Eves: It does get kind of frustrating over here, when we could be talking about the rule changes in House leaders' meetings where they're supposed to be dealt with; and we could be talking about rule changes in the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly where they're supposed to be dealt with; and we could have been, for the last six days in this place and all last week until midnight, actually discussing legislation such as the labour bill, which the government says, and rightly so, is a very important item on its agenda.

Whether or not you agree with the philosophy and the principle behind the labour legislation, you do have to respect the government's right to introduce such legislation, and it has to respect the opposition's right and the public's right to question the principle and the underlying philosophy behind the bill; and, hopefully, see the bill go out to committee for extensive public hearings during the break and, hopefully, extensive clause-by-clause discussion of the bill; and, hopefully, during those public hearings there will be many suggestions brought forward to the government that it will be willing to listen to and amend its legislation to make it a better piece of legislation for everybody in the province.

Those are the types of important issues we should be talking about the last six days in this Legislature, but instead we are presented every day for the last six days with unilateral rule changes. That is what the government determines its first priority to be.

The government House leader and others over there get very sensitive when you start suggesting to them that there

must be a motive or a reason behind their thinking as to why they would want to proceed with rule changes before they proceed with any piece of legislation at all—not one single piece of legislation. I ask you, Mr Speaker, what else is one to think when the government makes this its first and only priority and absolutely refuses every invitation by the other two House leaders to talk about any other piece of legislation they may put on the order paper and debate?

They don't want to talk about Sunday shopping, all of a sudden. They don't want to talk about their labour legislation. They don't want to talk about auto insurance. They don't want to talk about these education bills. They don't want to talk about the Toronto Islands bill. They don't want to talk about the building code amendment bill. They don't want to talk about the waterfront regeneration trust bill. All they want to talk about is their rule changes, and then they will ram through any piece of legislation they want. Once they have what they want in their unilateral rule changes, they'll then have the power, in a very dictatorial fashion, I might add, to attribute certain time limits to certain stages of a bill and it will be passed without any further debate or, they hope, any further opposition or public awareness of the issue.

I think one has to understand that the only way opposition—not just opposition members but any public opposition to any proposed piece of legislation—can be effectively dealt with or talked about under our system of government, under the parliamentary system of government, is through the opposition parties' ability to debate, and yes, on occasion even stall or slow down progress of a particular bill, and that has worked very effectively over the years against governments of all political stripes.

This government surely is no different from any other government before it. Be we Conservative governments, Liberal governments or now New Democratic governments, we have all had difficulties with very controversial pieces of legislation. But it is kind of ironic that the party that has always stood for the underdog—or so it says—always stood for minority groups and minority interests, was always willing to go to bat for an individual's freedom of speech and right to differ, now wants to introduce a set of totalitarian rules or dictatorial rules—despotic rules, actually—so it can cut off debate and have any piece of legislation it wants in a certain given amount of time.

Boy, I can tell you, Mr Speaker, when I first got elected here, if Elie Martel would have heard of such a dictatorial scheme, you'd have had to get him off one of these chandeliers in this place. He would have gone absolutely nuts. You'd still hear him screaming and yelling. I mean, he would have gone absolutely crazy. He would have been in here calling you everything and anything in the book, screaming and yelling about the government majority trying to have its way, trying to cut off debate. I heard all those great speeches Elie gave.

Now his party, which stood for all these principles all these years supporting the minority right to speak, says: "We have a majority. We have 74 seats. We can do whatever we want. We don't have to listen to anybody. We got 36.9% of the vote, 1% less than Frank Miller got. Boy, are

we smart guys and girls. Are we ever great. We got 1% less of the popular vote than Frank Miller got. That gives us the authority to ram anything through any time we want without debate. How good are we?"

That's exactly what they're saying, but they seem to forget that some 63% of the people of Ontario voted against them; 63% of the people of Ontario did not want them in government. We represent those 63% over here on this side of the House. It is our job to represent the interests of those 63.1% of the people. They are representing 36.9% of the popular vote; that's the number they represent over there. We represent 63.1% over here, and we'd like to be heard, if you don't mind. Unless there is some kind of new math over there, the total percentage is still 100%.

1640

Mr Derek Fletcher (Guelph): We're still the green party.

Mr Eves: I'm glad the honourable member mentions the Green Party, because the Green Party got about three times the vote that his party got in my riding in the last provincial election.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): That's why you got returned.

Mr Eves: No, that's why your candidate lost his deposit.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: Because your message got through so well to the people in my constituency.

Mr Fletcher: Obviously.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Guelph will come to order.

Mr Eves: I would also like to point out today that I thought things really got pretty bad last Thursday in this place. Last Thursday morning, I'm sure many members of the public are aware, the House adjourned, actually, at about five or 10 after 10 for lack of a quorum. It's a seldom-used rule.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Neat little trick.

Mr Gilles Bisson (Cochrane South): Trick.

Mr Eves: I hear some government members saying, "Trick." The only trick to this was that apparently the government House leader can't count to 20 and can't get 20 out of 74 members into the chamber within five minutes of the bells starting to ring. There is no trick. Everybody who has ever been here for a day knows that you have to have 20 members in the House to keep a quorum. Everybody knows that.

Not only that, they had five minutes to get their 20 members here and they still couldn't do it. That has happened only once before in the history of the province. The last time, I understand, it happened—I stand to be corrected—was 1936, when the House was adjourned for lack of a quorum. So that is the epitaph, as it may be, for the government over there. Not since 1936 has there been such

a lack of interest in the governing party of this place that it can't get a quorum together in five minutes of bell ringing.

Mr George Mammoliti (Yorkview): You're not fooling anybody.

Mr Eves: It's not a question of fooling anybody; it's a question of being able to count to 20 and getting your 20 members.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor at this point and I don't think the interruptions by certain members in the House are helpful. If we could contain ourselves and allow the member to speak, I think that would be advised. The honourable member for Parry Sound.

Mr Eves: I just want to point out, in that vein, that that's what quorum calls are all about. When I was in government and I was in cabinet—and I know that my colleagues to the right know the same thing—it's always left to the government party to supply the quorum. I can remember many times when the Elie Martels of the world said, "We don't have to worry about getting a quorum." The only reason that opposition parties most often ask for a quorum is to embarrass the government members to see if they're on their toes, to see if they actually have 20 members within five minutes of this chamber, and the answer last Thursday morning was, no, they didn't. They did not have 20 members within five minutes of the chamber, and then they want to turn around and blame everybody else in the world because 20 out of 74 can't show up. Whose fault is that? You people think you represent everybody.

Mr Paul R. Johnson (Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings): You represent 63% and you didn't have anybody here.

Mr Jim Wiseman (Durham West): You've destroyed the impartiality of private members' hour.

Mr Eves: They still haven't got this straight, Mr Speaker. I wonder, if there was a quorum call right now, if they'd be able to get 20 members here. I suspect that they would be able to get 20 members here, and I suspect that certain people over there have had their knuckles severely rapped over last Thursday morning's lack of a quorum. I'm sure that will not happen again in the near future.

I think there is a great lack of understanding by a lot of people out there as to what this debate is all about.

Over the weekend my colleague the member for Carleton wrote an open letter to the editor of the Ottawa Sun. I would like to read that letter because I think it summarizes very succinctly in a page and a half what this debate is all about. I think a lot of people on the outside think we are here just playing little games with the rules when there's important business. Well, I couldn't agree more. Why for the last six days has the government put this on Orders and Notices? Why didn't they call legislation? We could've dealt with it then as well as today.

This letter is dated June 19:

"Dear Editor:

"The people of Ontario must understand that the present fight over changes to the rules governing the Legislature

is essential in order to prevent Bob Rae from becoming a virtual dictator.

"In our 125-year history the rules (our constitution) have never been changed without negotiation with the other political parties. Parliament is intended to be a balance between the right of government to govern and the opposition to oppose. In a majority Parliament, the only tool for the opposition to seek compromise is to delay.

"Mr Rae has decided that he should be able to unilaterally dictate how long a debate will take place on any future legislation. For instance, he can decide on the controversial labour law changes that he will only tolerate an hour of debate on second reading, one day of public hearings and one hour of debate on third and final readings. He will probably choose to be more generous than that, but that is the power he is seeking."

That is exactly right. That is the power he is seeking under this government notice of motion, under these proposed rule changes.

The letter goes on:

"If Mr Rae gets his way (and he eventually can), he will virtually eliminate the usefulness of opposition members in the Legislature and in committees, save for question period. Over the past six years in opposition I have been successful in forcing the government of the day to accept some amendments to their legislation. My only tool was to delay or threaten delay. What sense is there for me to bother to debate if I have no means to make them listen?"

"Mr Rae says that he is following Mr Mulroney's lead in bringing in time allocation motions now used in the House of Commons, but conveniently, he forgets about other balancing factors such as the ability of the Senate to stall.

"Rules governing our Legislature are boring stuff for the public. I understand why the public believe that we are being childish in using every stalling technique available to us. However, we are fighting for the life of our democratic institution and must continue to do so until the government agrees to sit down and find a reasonable compromise. We will continue to be ready to negotiate new rules which will make Parliament more efficient.

"However, if the public are concerned about arrogant governments that don't listen, just wait till they see the end result of this huge power grab by Bob Rae. Those same people who are today saying opposition parties are not acting responsible will probably be asking at a later date why the opposition or why the public were not given the right to be heard.

"The government's agenda has been poorly thought out and full of inaccuracies, causing long delays. A failure by Bob Rae to tolerate those who disagree with him or want to correct his errors and mismanagement should not result in an attack by him which will destroy the delicate balance of power required in our provincial Parliament.

"Yours truly,

"Norm Sterling, MPP Carleton, PC caucus chairman."

I think that letter is a fairly accurate assessment of what is going on here today. We have seen just in the last several months many bills which, had they not been delayed either

in second reading or in committee, would not have led to the substantive changes they've led to.

There are over 190 amendments to the housing bill, Bill 121, and they only came about because opposition spokespeople over here, be they from the Liberal Party or the Conservative Party, asked questions. During public hearings, members of the public came out and asked questions for weeks on end about particular aspects of the bill, only to have the minister rethink some of the sections of the bill, as she was right to do, and come up with some 190 proposed amendments to that legislation.

Exactly the same thing happened with the advocacy bills which are now back in committee. That is a very non-political, non-partisan set of bills. If those bills had passed in a matter of one or two days' debate in this Legislature on second reading and had not gone out for public hearings and been examined closely in public hearings and clause by clause, we would have had some very unworkable pieces of legislation indeed.

Because of the fact that opposition parties exercised their right to delay and express opposition to certain aspects of that legislation and because members of the public had an opportunity for weeks on end to come and express their concerns—and very sincere concerns at that—to many different aspects of those pieces of legislation, the end result was that we ended up with better legislation.

1650

That is exactly how this place is supposed to work and that is why it works so well. That is why, in my opinion, our system of government is far superior to a republican or presidential system of government. For example, cabinet ministers in the United States are not even elected people; they're appointed people. They don't have to run for office. They're not responsible to the people. They're not responsible to their constituents. That's what separates our system of government from theirs. In their system, cabinet ministers or even the President do not have to appear every day, as does the Premier and his cabinet, to answer to the people of Ontario for decisions that are made by them day after day in their portfolios.

That is what we're talking about. That is why we get concerned on this side of the House when we hear about unilateral rule changes which in effect would permit the government to invoke closure any time it wants at any stage of a bill. You can call it time allocation if you want, but the net result is that we're going to set out certain specified periods of time, and at the end of that time the bill will be passed. That is what we're debating here.

We recognize there is need for some changes to the standing orders. Some of them have become unworkable and can be improved and modernized. Nobody's disputing that. From time to time—the last time was 1989—we've done that in this place when we've had to. It usually arises as a result of an impasse around a particular piece of legislation, as it did in this case. There's nothing wrong with that, but it should be a negotiated settlement. It can't be done by holding a gun to somebody's head, so to speak, and it can't be done by forcing unilateral rule changes on members of the other two parties.

If it is done that way for the first time in the history of the province, the result will be acrimony in this place for the balance of the history of this Parliament. The government House leader knows that full well. How does his government expect the opposition and the public to treat his government with any respect if it does not treat the system we're operating in with any respect? That basically is the underlying theme behind this whole debate.

Another thing that concerns me in this whole debate is the fact that the government House leader has been talking to my colleague the member for Bruce and myself in House leaders' meetings about how we could better deal with a lot of this rule change debate that is going on in the chamber. From time to time he has felt it necessary to negotiate through the media or issue press releases.

I find that a little bit distasteful. Perhaps I come from another era, but when I first got elected here there was no way that Tom Wells, Elie Martel and Bob Nixon would have repeated one single word of what went on in a House leaders' meeting. Their word was their bond. They stood by it. They may not agree philosophically and they wouldn't agree on many pieces of legislation, but what was said in that meeting stayed in that meeting and it wasn't used against the other two or one by way of a—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: I'd like to call the member for Willowdale to order. Order. I realize there's a lot of discussion going on across the floor. The member for Parry Sound has the floor, and if he could please address his remarks to the Chair, that would be helpful as well.

Mr Eves: I would like to indicate some of my frustration to you, Mr Speaker. For example, on June 8 we have here a press release of some three pages in length—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr Eves: I have here a press release from the government House leader dated June 8, 1992, and it talks about why Mr Cooke, the government House leader, was introducing his motion in the Legislature to change the rules of the House.

He goes on in here to talk about how the opposition members have slowed the passage of legislation to a trickle and that's why he needs his new standing orders. He goes on to talk about the 121 pieces of legislation his party wants to introduce. He goes on to talk about the fact there are 25 bills awaiting second reading. He says that all-party committees would merely sit idle all summer if the Legislature did not refer any legislation to them.

A week ago Thursday I indicated all the legislation that the government's introduced, and there are nowhere near 121 pieces; there are 17. They didn't even get serious about introducing any until May 26 despite the fact that they came back a month late, despite the fact that during the first month the House sat they introduced three, despite the fact that the second month the House sat they intro-

duced about six, three of which came from a previous education bill.

How can you say on the one hand that you've got 121 pieces of legislation you want to introduce when you introduce four in six weeks? Who's telling whom what, and who's telling it the way it is? Why weren't the 121 pieces tabled before the last two weeks in the session, which according to the standing orders they're supposed to do? Where are the 121? How come we only have 17?

I would suggest to you, Mr Speaker, that they don't have 121 pieces of legislation at all; they have 17. They only had four done the first six weeks the House came back, and they called it back a month late. That is a façade; it is not factual. The facts speak for themselves. We all know what pieces of legislation are on their order paper, what have been introduced and what have not, and we don't have 121 to deal with; we have more like 17. We know that most of those arise out of legislation left over from the previous session, not from this session at all.

Then last Wednesday the government House leader again felt it necessary to issue a press release:

"Liberal and Conservative opposition parties are making a mockery of the Legislative Assembly with their senseless delay tactics, government House leader Dave Cooke said Wednesday.

"Instead of attending to the important issues facing this province, the opposition have opted for childlike tactics such as clapping their hands, making frivolous points of order and taking two hours of valuable House time reading the title of a single bill," Mr Cooke said. "It's difficult to see how this behaviour serves the public interest."

How does the behaviour of putting out a press release about nine days before that saying, "I've 121 bills to introduce" and only introducing 17 affect the public order and what the public can and can't believe? How does the fact that for six days in a row I've had nothing on the order paper but the government's unilateral rule changes, not all the 121 pieces of legislation, of which 104 must have got lost in his desk or in his briefcase somewhere, because he didn't bother to introduce them—how does calling for unilateral rule changes for the first time in the history of the province six days in a row help him deal with the important issues of the day in the province? How does that help him or his government face the labour legislation debate? How does that help him or his government deal with Sunday shopping and the free vote that his Premier promised? How does that help innocent accident victims get their right to sue restored under the auto insurance legislation, Bill 164, which has been sitting on the order paper for months but he won't call it?

1700

Even the fact that we are here today carrying on with this debate about proposed unilateral rule changes is ludicrous, and we'll be doing it till midnight tonight, because that is the government's choice. That is the government House leader's choice. He doesn't want to talk about labour legislation today or for the last week and a half or tonight. He wants to talk about unilateral rule changes. He can call any order he wants, any one of those pieces of legislation that he says are very important and that he has

to get on with, but they're so important he's not going to call them. That's how important they are. Rule changes come first; labour legislation or heaven knows what else comes second, third, fourth, all the way down to number 17. He's ranked them, and this is his number one priority. He can call anything he wants, and for six days in a row he's chosen to call unilateral rule changes.

What I would like to begin to do now, getting into my remarks about the proposed rule changes themselves, is go over the position that the government House leader and his leader and other prominent members of his caucus and previous caucus colleagues have had about such rules as the ones he wants to introduce as the government of the day. My, my, how times change one's opinion about the standing orders.

I want to go back not too far in time, to debate on the then auto insurance bill, Bill 68, a creation of the previous government, which of course we all know Mr Rae and his colleagues ran against during the last provincial election, only, lo and behold, to introduce Bill 164, which is almost identical to Bill 68, dealing with the same problem.

Mr Peter Kormos (Welland-Thorold): By God, it's worse than Bill 68.

Mr Murray J. Elston (Bruce): It's similar; it's not the same.

Mr Eves: Similar, similar; sorry. I will take "almost identical" back. As a matter of fact, the government member for Welland-Thorold points out that his government's Bill 164 is actually worse than the previous government's Bill 68, and I think we'd probably have to concur.

During that debate the now government House leader, then the opposition House leader, stood in this place on April 3, 1990, and here's what he said about time allocation and standing orders on that day:

"This government, the majority party in here, is prepared to do anything to the standing orders in order to get its legislation through, even if it means changing the routine proceedings that we normally go through." Exactly what he did today.

He was talking about the government of the day moving a motion to go directly to orders of the day and to jump over introduction of bills, petitions, committee reports etc, so that opposition members couldn't introduce petitions, couldn't introduce delaying tactics or points of order and couldn't introduce bills. He was complaining about it on April 3, 1990, and now today he's doing it. He's doing exactly the same thing he found despicable on April 3, 1990.

Mr Harnick: Can you repeat who that was again?

Mr Eves: That was the Honourable David Cooke.

Mr Harnick: The same guy?

Mr Eves: The same guy.

He goes on to say, "I would suggest that" time allocation "is incredibly unfair." The same guy who now wants to have automatic time allocation said: "I would suggest that" time allocation "is incredibly unfair. It will result in the process not holding the government accountable...."

Is the government House leader now telling us that he wants to introduce incredibly unfair standing orders and time allocation motions and his government doesn't have

to or doesn't want to be accountable? This is the same guy who is introducing this stuff today. I find this hard to believe.

He goes on to say in the same debate: "The rules in this place are here to protect the integrity of this institution, the rules are written and changed by consensus and the rules are here to protect debate and free debate from all members of the Legislature. The government is rewriting the rules and imposing them by motion and by the use of its majority. It is clear that the government will go to whatever extent is necessary to impose its will."

That is what David Cooke said on April 3, 1990, about the type of rules he now wants to introduce unilaterally. He said that time allocation was incredibly unfair, that all that results in is the process not holding the government of the day accountable. So I presume his government doesn't want to be accountable and it wants to be incredibly unfair.

He went on to say that the whole reason why we have rules in this place is to protect the integrity of the institution, by our system, and that the rules are to be changed and written by consensus only. So why are we debating his unilateral motion to change the rules if he believes the only way you ever do this is by consensus? I have it right here. These are his own words.

Then on July 13, 1989, going back a little bit before that, this was a debate on Bills 113 and 114 of the day. The now government House leader, then the House leader of the official opposition, said: "Again, the government House leader makes the point very well that the Legislative Assembly should not be passing time allocation without proper adjustments to the rules of the Legislative Assembly. That has not been done. I think it would be appropriate for the government to do that. If it wants to negotiate that as a package, then we are certainly prepared to talk about it. We will want other things in return."

Hello, is Mr Cooke home? Now that we are saying we want other things in return, he says: "Oh, no, no. You don't get anything. This isn't a democracy here. We want our own rules. We don't want any debate. We want to be able to shove it down your throat. We don't want to listen to any opposition. We don't want to listen to the people of Ontario. We want the whole ball of wax." This is the same David Cooke who criticized other governments for introducing time allocation motions.

"We will want other things in return. We will want all sorts of protections for opposition parties. Time allocation, I think, is a sad commentary on this government," Mr Cooke said. "It is a sad commentary on a majority that has become more and more removed from the people of this province."

Mel Swart couldn't have said it better. This government has become very, very arrogant in a very, very short period of time. Now, because their legislation isn't going through quickly enough, they want to change the rules. They want to eliminate democratic debate so they can ram their legislation through with their 36.9% of the popular vote.

1710

It's almost unbelievable that the same Mr Cooke could now be standing in this place introducing motions to go past other business and directly to orders of the day that he

criticized the then government House leader for doing. It's almost unbelievable that he could criticize time allocation motions. It's unbelievable that he could suggest that the only way the rules of this place should ever be changed is by consensus and by negotiation of all three parties and now he's doing exactly the opposite. He's doing exactly what he criticized the government of the day in 1989 and 1990 for doing.

I think it's kind of interesting also, Mr Speaker, to find out where the Premier of the province is coming from on these rule changes because we have some quotes here from the Premier of the province when he was the Leader of the Opposition and what he thought about the government of the day dealing with time allocation motions, changing the standing orders etc. This is in a debate on July 18, 1989.

"Mr Rae: I can tell the members that when I was in another democratic forum, we had experiences there with various forms of time allocation and of closure. I will not take this opportunity to go through back to the great debates of 1911 and 1912 and the history of closure which was presented to this House so brilliantly by the late Jim Renwick when he discussed the origins of closure in the British Parliament and the debates over the Irish question in the 1880s. I could not hope to match Mr Renwick's historical and narrative skill in going over that ground. It was a great speech for those of us who were here and for those of us who were involved in that debate.

"But I would like to say more than a few words about what has happened to this House and what has happened to the way in which governments have responded to particularly difficult debates. We are still in the position where we can count, if not on one hand, at least on two, the times when governments have felt it necessary to invoke closure or time allocation. I say without apology to the government House leader, who no doubt will say this is not closure and will say that I use the word 'closure' as a generic term to cover any effort by a government to limit or restrict debate and to set certain times as to when debates will be over, and that I regard this as a closure motion. I think if you talked to most people walking down the street about what happens when a government moves closure, if they knew what you were talking about at all, they would understand that setting limits to time is exactly what is involved....

"I think it is important for everyone to understand why opposition parties decide to oppose certain kinds of legislation and why and how they decide that certain kinds of legislation or certain bills are going to be opposed in a particularly strong and vehement fashion.

"There will no doubt be some who look at opposition parties and say that simply obstructing or opposing, throwing up roadblocks, is the only thing our opposition parties are good for or know how to do, in addition to posing embarrassing or difficult or effective questions in question period. But I would say that in fact opposition parties have to choose very carefully—and from my experience, do choose very carefully—those bills and pieces of legislation which they single out as bills which they will do everything in their power to stop or to slow down....

"Most of us know that in the case of minority parliaments there's far more give and take, which is why I personally like minority parliaments." This is the Premier talking. I'm sure the people will give him at least that wish in the next provincial election, Mr Speaker. "I certainly enjoyed the last one," he said, "I only wish it had lasted a bit longer. We like the give and take that is there. We like the opportunity for individual members to express some influence and to have an ability to affect things. Majority parliaments produce legislation which is very difficult for us to amend...."

"But when we are faced with legislation that to us is completely unacceptable, as an opposition what we have to do is then say that we are going to use the only weapon we have, which is time.

"In a minority Parliament, you have a lot of weapons you can use.... In a majority Parliament, compromise is not the way of the system. Compromise is unheard of. Governments with a majority do not compromise unless they are forced by public opinion and time to do so. What majority governments say when they are determined to proceed with a certain path is to go ahead."

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I notice there is a party on the government side of the premises. If we could listen to the member for Parry Sound speak, it would be helpful.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Bruce has raised, I think, a very important issue. There is a great deal of discussion and talk on all sides of the House today; in fact, one might even say at times a Greek chorus responding to various things the honourable member for Parry Sound has said. I ask the members to please maintain order. I'm speaking specifically right now to the member for Etobicoke West to stop the interjections and allow the member for Parry Sound, a member of his own party, to continue with his discussions.

Mr Eves: These are remarks by the Premier of the province when he was the Leader of the Opposition about majority governments. He didn't like majority governments, he thought they were terrible. Minority governments always work far better than majority government, according to the Premier of the province. He was totally against any form of time allocation or closure, which he said was unparliamentary, undemocratic and something you should never do. It was just a case of a majority government abusing its privileges as a government.

Now we have his government not only doing what he criticized others for doing, but he wants to do it unilaterally for the first time in the history of the province without consensus with the other two parties. It's almost unbelievable that these words came out of the current Premier's mouth and now he's turning around and doing exactly—and worse—what he accused other governments of doing.

"In my experience in the House of Commons or my experience here," Mr Rae went on, "I cannot remember a time during a majority Parliament when a significant amendment proposed by an opposition member to a bill has been accepted by a government. I cannot recall such a time, and if someone can point to such an occasion, I

would say that is the exception that proves the rule, because once the power is there, once that executive capacity is there, it is used simply to preserve the power of the majority and to proceed on the basis of what the majority wants.

"There have been many comments on bell-ringing and many comments on other kinds of tactics we use. I can tell the member that whether we use bell-ringing in the future will of course depend on the negotiations that are ongoing with respect to the rules"—negotiations ongoing with respect to the rules—"which we are all aware of, but I can say to the member that we are determined to maintain our capacity as an opposition to use our control over time, because if we are not able to in effect—I should not use the word 'control' but 'influence'—if we cannot use our influence over time, we are then in a position where it is impossible for us to allow public opinion to get a government to change its mind."

1720

That is exactly the point. That's exactly what we have been saying to the Premier and to his colleague the government House leader for many, many days now, if not a couple of weeks, since this June 8 introduction of these unilateral rule changes. It's exactly the point, and the government House leader himself and the Premier himself, when they were in opposition, made exactly the points we're making now, but they don't want to listen now. They're in the majority. They want to use their executive powers, as the Premier refers to it. They don't want to listen to anybody. They want to do what they want to do.

He goes on and on and talks about the various things opposition parties can do to slow down the work of the Legislature and that this is really the only effective way an opposition party of any political stripe can get its point across, to ask for time, to allow for the public to have input, to make the public aware of certain proposed pieces of legislation so hopefully they can be amended and improved upon and the public can have some input into the process.

That's all we're asking for here. All the opposition parties are asking for over here is an opportunity to be heard and not unilaterally cut off and shut out of debate so the public has a right, on controversial pieces of legislation, to come and make its point or points known so the legislation can be approved and we can all do our jobs as legislators here, whether we're on the government's side of the House or the opposition side of the House.

I have a comment here from the current Minister of Labour when he was in opposition, speaking in the same debate on the same day as the Premier of the province.

"Mr Mackenzie: I would wish the Liberal government members would take the trouble to read an excellent speech by a former colleague of mine, the previous member for Riverdale, Jim Renwick, and his comments of 9 December 1982 on a previous closure motion in this House. Jim warned the government that it gets easier every time you take another slice out of the democratic process, and he quoted Santayana, the philosopher, that those who do not understand or remember history are doomed to repeat it. I think those words are accurate ones...."

"Why does a government with 94 members in this House as against a combined opposition of 36 opposition members for both parties, two and a half to one, have to resort to bully-boy tactics? Why the iron fist approach? I think it is important to understand why this dictatorial approach and not to be conned by it, and that the people of Ontario not be conned by what is happening here."

I say to the Minister of Labour: Exactly. That is exactly the point, and why is he partaking of a government that is doing the same and worse than the government of July 18, 1989, was doing? All they wanted to do then was introduce one simple closure motion. What the government wants to do is make closure and time allocation an everyday fact of life by unilateral changes to the rules, and he's going to stand up and vote for that, the same Mr Mackenzie?

Where have his principles gone? Where have Mr Mackenzie's principles gone? Where have Mr Rae's principles gone? Where have Mr Cooke's principles gone? Have they washed them out? Did they chuck them out the door on September 10, 1990? What happened to their principles? What happened to the principles their party fought for for years? Do they not have any any more? Do they not remember what democracy is all about, fighting for people's right to speak, fighting for minority rights? What's happened to them?

Mr Charles Beer (York North): Give us the answer, Ernie.

Mr Eves: I think Mel Swart told us the answer.

Mr Elston: I agree. What was that answer that Mel gave us?

Mr Eves: What was that answer over the weekend?

Mr Elston: Yes.

Mr Eves: Oh, Mel's very upset indeed. He's upset. He's upset with the fact that he thinks that his party has caved in, that they've yielded to pressure from various interest groups, that they no longer are prepared to stand up and be counted on the principles that they fought for so hard during the 1990 election campaign. The same principles that got them elected they've now thrown out the window. They've thrown out their principles on Sunday shopping; they've thrown out their principles on the public's right to sue on auto insurance; they've chucked them out.

And this government was going to be different. This government was going to be different, Mr Rae said.

Mr James J. Bradley (St Catharines): Corporate donations now.

Mr Eves: As my friend the member for St Catharines says, now they're even going to accept donations from corporations. What next? Is there no limit to this? Do these people have no shame, or what?

Mr Elston: No, they have no money. There's a difference.

Mr Eves: Oh, they have no money. That could be part of the problem.

Anyway, going on with Mr Mackenzie's speech of July 18, "The next argument from the government House leader is that the New Democratic Party is simply stalling

the business of the House; this from a government House leader whose tactic from day one has been 'My way or no way.'"

Does that sound familiar? The government House leader of the day has said to us, for six days in a row, "My way or no way."

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The honourable member for Parry Sound has the floor right now. There's a great deal of interchange between the two sides of the House.

Mr Stockwell: It is my fault; sorry.

The Acting Speaker: Not this time, to the honourable member, just so he knows. I'd ask the honourable member for Parry Sound to please continue.

Mr Eves: Mr Mackenzie went on to say in that debate: "He is certainly the most incompetent House leader, in terms of ordering the business of this House, that I have seen in my years in this House. The House leaders' meetings are confrontational. House business in this House has been a disaster, and for a small opposition, the only way we have been able to make our points, the only tools at our use, have been the use of the rules or the use of the bells."

"No other House leader would have been as lacking in the skills needed to order the efficient business of the House," Mr Mackenzie said. "One would think that a rural boy would have learned that you catch more with a little honey than you do with vinegar."

"The government House leader seems to be personally insulted when his big majority does not give him the licence to do exactly as he pleases. His main claim to fame in this House is to have brought about the most unhealthy, nasty, personal and divisive House that is literally operating on invective and personal animosity. It is not a very proud or positive accomplishment. I think the government House leader should be replaced as a first step to restoring any civility in this House."

That was Mr Mackenzie's advice when we had a real problem about a small closure motion—one closure motion, not rules saying, "We can invoke closure every day of the week if we want." One simple closure motion. Mr Mackenzie's solution was to turf the government House leader as the first step, because "He's obviously the worst House leader we've ever seen in any government party anywhere because he can't even get this one little motion through."

Then he goes on to say, "Let's cut a deal." How many times have we said, "Let's cut a deal on this"? How many times have we said to the current House leader, "Can't we sit down and talk about changing the rules and get on with the business of the House while we go to House leaders' meetings and talk about the rules or send it out to the Legislative Assembly committee?"

Exactly the same points, but they won't listen. They're big shots now. They're in government. They're arrogant; they can do whatever they want. They can change the rules unilaterally. They can invoke closure day after day if they want. They went nuts about one closure motion, and now they want to do it as a matter of business.

Interjection: Hear, hear.

Mr Eves: One of their members says, "Hear, hear." I guess that's what they want.

"Every time a government moves closure it gets a little easier, and democracy is just a little frailer as a result. This is a sad day for justice in Ontario, and...another sick day for this particular government."—That's Mr Mackenzie; I couldn't agree with him more.—"The members of this government, argue as they might, know very well that there is no real justification for this closure motion at this time. I think fairminded people across Ontario will agree that there is no justification for this motion to stifle debate on something as important as this bill is to so many constituents of Ontario."

"I think they will live to regret it. I think it is another case of history that they are going to suffer for, because they have not learned from history in the past. I hope the members of this House, although I do not expect it, will decide that they are simply not going to proceed with such a sick and undemocratic approach as this closure motion."

1730

This is Mr Mackenzie, as he was very apt to do in 1989, going completely offside, as he often did. If some of the members over there who were newly elected in 1990 think some of us go nuts in here from time to time, you should have seen Bob Mackenzie in 1987, 1988 and 1989. I'll tell you that he makes me look like I'm on Valium 24 hours a day. This guy went bananas in here every day, screaming and yelling, getting thrown out, going on tirades talking about democratic rights about one simple closure motion.

Now he's part of a cabinet that wants to pass rules that say, "I can invoke closure every day of the week on every bill if I want and you don't have the right to debate it." Bob Mackenzie would have ripped out microphones. He'd have gone completely nuts. You people sit over here and think we're crazy. I wish we had videotapes of some great speeches that Elie Martel gave in this place, that Morty Shulman gave in this place, that Bob Mackenzie gave in this place, that Bob Rae gave when he was the opposition leader, that David Cooke gave when he was the opposition House leader, and Ross McClellan and David Reville. We must have those on videotape someplace, I hope.

I want to talk for a moment about another quote of Mr Rae's on January 30, 1989, because it was, lo and behold, on Bills 113 and 114, which were the Sunday shopping bills of the government of the day. I want to tell you what Mr Rae had to say about Sunday shopping on January 30, 1989, which is not all that long ago. I don't think one's principles usually change too much in the course of two or three years.

"I also want to signal to you, sir, that we have fought this battle now for many, many months, indeed many years, and it has become perfectly clear to us that the government is bound and determined to have its way. To put it bluntly, we can add that we know the government, if this is what it is determined to do, can in fact force the

House to vote and can, according to you and your ruling, sir, close off debate....

"I think the best labour legislation we could have would be Sunday closing legislation. Anything else is very inadequate and does not really meet the situation, the requirements or our needs.

"Mr Speaker, in closing, I want to say that in your ruling, sir, I think you have established a very dangerous precedent. I think it is a terrible precedent to say that the majority can in effect, without so much as a by-your-leave, amend the standing orders and simply force through legislation as it wishes. With great respect to you and your office, I think it is lamentable that we did not convince you that minorities need more protection in this House, and that is particularly true when you have a government the size of this one.

"I think we are now living with rules and with precedents in this House which will not stand democracy well at the end of the day. It would be far better to have real consensus among all the parties as to how the business of the House should be ordered and some greater willingness on the part of the government to at least listen to those of us who are in opposition to what it is trying to do."

Those were the words of Bob Rae on January 30, 1989. He obviously doesn't think much about consensus of all the parties, as he put it, any more. He was going crazy there; he was going a little offside—perhaps "crazy" isn't the right word—about one simple closure motion. Now he wants to change the rules so he can pass it every day of the week if it so behooves him.

I'm reading some more comments here now of the government House leader on Sunday shopping. On January 23, 1989, Mr Cooke himself said:

"I am not going to say that I'm happy to join in this debate, but obviously the government House leader knew it was coming.

"Mr Speaker, I do not know if you had the opportunity to watch Provincial Affairs this past Saturday night, but I did. The government House leader spent a good deal of the time attacking my party. I took that as a compliment, because I think we have demonstrated over the last number of months our vigorous, real and very strongly held views on the government's plan to expand Sunday shopping."

If rumour is correct, the very same government House leader, the very same David Cooke, is one of the biggest proponents of Sunday shopping in the NDP caucus and in the hierarchy of cabinet and his party, and he talks about his principles and how he has vigorously, very strongly held views against the expansion of Sunday shopping. Those are his principles as of 1989, but I guess he checks them at the cabinet door in 1992 when he goes to cabinet meetings.

Time allocation seems to be the pet project of the current government House leader. That is the most important thing in this entire rules package as far as he is concerned. He wants some sort of time allocation motion.

Mr Mahoney: What does that mean?

Mr Eves: The honourable member says, "What does that mean?" I'm glad he asked me that question, because basically and very simply to the people out there, what time allocation means is that if the government of the day decides it wants a particular piece of legislation passed, such as the labour bill which is now before the House but which the government House leader refuses to call, he can simply introduce a motion, or the minister introducing that legislation can simply introduce a motion, which would say, for example—he wants a very bald time allocation motion. He doesn't want it to be able to be debated for more than an hour, I think was his proposal, one hour's debate.

Then when it's passed, the motion can say, for example: "There will be one day of second reading debate. There will be no public hearings"—he could do this. "There will be no clause-by-clause consideration of the bill in committee. There will be a day of committee of the whole, there will be an hour of third reading debate and, lo and behold, it will become law because we said so and we're the government and the rest of you don't have any rights."

He could do that in accordance with the rule changes and time allocation motion changes that he is proposing. Now if that isn't what he wants, then why doesn't he propose what he wants? But that's what he has asked for. He's asked for taking away the Speaker's discretion in cases of closure. Right now in this place, the Speaker is an independent person and he or she rules whether there has been the appropriate amount of debate on invoking closure, cutting off debate, having the question put now or having an immediate vote without further debate.

Right now it's at the Speaker's discretion, if the appropriate number of hours or rotations have taken place, before closure can be invoked. That's set by parliamentary tradition and precedents. Right now it's at the Speaker's discretion as to whether the rights of the minority members in the Legislature are being oppressed or whether the minority have been able to have their say.

Why does Mr Cooke want to take that away? Why does he want it to become automatic? The same Mr Cooke made all these great quotes about how you have to protect the rights of the minority and how closure and time allocation are terrible things. The same Mr Rae who spoke so eloquently from the heart about it now says: "The heck with them. I want time allocation and closure that I can shove down their yaps. It's not debatable. You can talk about it for an hour and that's it." I don't understand how people can change so much in a couple of short years.

1740

Here's Mr Cooke on auto insurance, a favourite subject; Bill 68, April 3, 1990, on time allocation:

"First of all, perhaps I might look at some of the background of time allocation or closure motions in this Legislature. Mr Speaker, I think you as a long-standing member of the Legislature will recognize that time allocation or closure motions in the past have been very rare, rarely used by the government of the day. However, since 1987 this procedure has become almost routine for this government.

"The government now treats time allocation motions, even though they are not provided for in the standing orders, as routine. Its position can be interpreted by us, and is interpreted by us, as a government that wants to use its 93 members to get whatever it, as the majority, wants through, and if it has to use time allocation or closure, it will use it as often as it feels like using it."

Mr Bradley: Who said that?

Mr Eves: David Cooke said that. "I think that each and every time the time allocation and closure motions are brought in they need to be examined by the Speaker"—he was in favour of the Speaker's discretion for time allocation and closure motions in 1990, two years ago—"need to be considered by the Speaker as they relate to our rules and precedents that have been set."

On April 3, 1990, the same Mr Cooke spoke very eloquently in favour of honouring parliamentary tradition, precedent and having the Speaker's discretion with respect to time allocation and closure motions.

The same Mr Cooke is now saying: "No, the Speaker shouldn't have any discretion at all. Closure should be automatic; time allocation should be automatic. You have one hour to debate it, that's it, and we can set any parameters and limit your rights to debate any time we want." That was Mr Cooke's opinion then; this is Mr Cooke's opinion now.

Mr Cooke went on to say in the same speech on the same day—the few little snippets of quotes by the now government House leader Mr Cooke, then House leader for the opposition, that just don't jibe with what he's telling us today; this can't be the same person; it must be somebody that's taken over his body—"The rules in this place are here to protect the integrity of the institution, the rules are written and changed by consensus and the rules are here to protect debate and free debate from all members of the Legislature. The government is rewriting the rules and imposing them by motion and by the use of its majority. It is clear that the government will go to whatever extent is necessary to impose its will."

That was Mr Cook on April 3, 1990; this is Mr Cooke today. He wants to do exactly what he criticized the government of the day for doing on April 3, 1990, but he wants to legitimize it by changing the standing orders to let him do it any time he wants.

Mr Cooke on the subject of filibusters and what appropriate debate is: "If the member thinks five days is a filibuster, then he has got something to learn about the proper procedures and the role of the opposition parties in dealing with controversial items like this."

Interjection: Repeat that.

Mr Eves: Mr Cooke said, "If the member thinks five days is a filibuster, then he has got something to learn about the proper procedures and the role of the opposition parties in dealing with controversial items like this."

Well, I guess we have the parameters for the minimum requirements for any time allocation motion. Five days per member is not enough. According to Mr Cooke, that's not a filibuster. That's what he said on April 3, 1990. I guess his new rules will be that every one of us, 130 of us, will

have at least six days to speak on every single bill that's introduced, because he doesn't think five days' debate is enough for one member of the Legislature on a controversial bill. How can the same person now want to stand here and make time allocation and closure a matter of routine? How can that possibly happen?

Then we had the same Mr Cooke go on to quote very eloquently from Erskine May on parliamentary tradition. He said:

"I would like to refer very briefly to Erskine May and quote from page 408:

"In many sessions in order to secure the passage of particularly important and controversial legislation, governments have been confronted with the choice, unless special powers are taken, of cutting down their normal program to an undesirable extent, or of prolonging the sittings of Parliament, or else of acknowledging the impotence of the majority of the House in the face of the resistance of the minority. In such circumstances, resort is had...to the most drastic method of curtailing debate known to procedure, namely, the setting of a date by which a committee must report, or the allocation of a specified number of days to the various stages of a bill and of limited amounts of time to particular portions of a bill. Orders made under this procedure are known as 'allocation of time' orders, and colloquially as 'guillotine' motions. They may be regarded as the extreme limit to which procedure goes in affirming the rights of the majority at the expense of the minorities of the House, and it cannot be denied that they are capable of being used in such a way as to upset the balance, generally so carefully preserved, between the claims of business and the rights of debate. But the harshness of this procedure is to some extent mitigated either by consultations between the party leaders or in the business committee—which in our case is the House leaders' panel—in order to establish the greatest possible measure of agreement as to the most satisfactory disposal of the time available."

That was Mr Cooke's thought on April 3, 1990, about protecting the rights of the minority and not letting the majority introduce time allocation motions or closure motions in debate. They should be done, in Mr Cooke's own words, by the House leaders' panel, not by changing the rules, not by introducing time allocation or closure motions but by negotiation, consensus and discussion at the House leaders' panel.

That's exactly what we've been telling the same Mr Cooke in his own words for the last two or three weeks in this place, yet he insists on calling for nothing more every day for the last six days than unilateral rule changes. I don't know if Mr Cooke really believes this—I suspect not—or if he's being ordered to by somebody above him in his own government, and I don't think there are too many people who fall into that category.

He goes on to say:

"In this particular circumstance, this argument in Erskine May is very relevant in that all the sections of this bill on the second reading debate, the public hearings and the debate of the report coming from the standing committee on general government were all dealt with by

consensus and by discussion in the House leaders' panel. Two days after we get into committee of the whole House, the government says, 'Well, we have dealt with this by consensus in the past.'

This is Mr Cooke complaining about lack of advance notice: "At 6 o'clock—they do not even give us advance notice; no discussion at all in the House leaders' panel—they bring in this closure motion," he says. That's what they do. "This bill had been dealt with by consensus for the first two stages, but the government did not even attempt to use the process; had it attempted the process, it may have worked. For that reason, in addition to the others, I think the motion is out of order."

1750

This is Mr Cooke speaking against a time allocation and closure motion on April 3, 1990, on the then auto insurance bill, Bill 68, which his government fought vehemently against during the 1990 election campaign. This is the same Mr Cooke and he's telling us how we should do things at the House leaders' panel, how we should do it by consensus, how this should never happen, how we should never have a time allocation motion in here and we should never have a closure motion.

Now he's got an order standing in his name saying that we rewrite all the rules of this place to unilaterally change the rules so his government can introduce time allocation or closure—the very things he criticizes—any time it wants, and he complains about lack of notice—the same Mr Cooke who slipped a motion to the Clerk at 5 pm on a Thursday, who didn't abide by the standing orders and tell us what his business for the following week was two or three Thursdays ago, and lo and behold—surprise—on Monday decides that he's going to debate nothing but changes to the standing orders.

He didn't give anybody any notice, Mr Speaker; he knew at 5 o'clock, when it had to be tabled with the Clerk, what he was going to do on Monday. He had Thursday evening, when the House sat until 12, Friday, Saturday and Sunday to tell somebody else what he wanted to do, and he complains about lack of notice.

Mr Mammoliti: He doesn't work Sundays.

Mr Eves: He worked yesterday, because I talked to him yesterday.

Hon Gilles Pouliot (Minister of Transportation and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs): That was a pleasure call.

Mr Eves: That was a pleasure call all right.

Mr Speaker, it's really difficult for us who have been here for a few years to comprehend where the New Democratic Party is coming from on this issue. What they propose in the new rule changes is totally against every principle and everything they have ever stood for in this place.

Unilateral actions by governments—which can be done if you have a majority; eventually it will pass, if that's how you decide to proceed—will result in nothing but chaos and acrimony around here for the next two to three years, whenever it is the Premier decides to call the next election.

I have a little snippet by Mr Rae saying he doesn't condone or approve of the use of closure by government to get legislation through. He just wanted us to know that.

Now we have some quotes by the current Minister of Financial Institutions, Mr Charlton, on January 30, 1989. This again, I think, was on the debate of Bills 113 and 114: "I find myself getting angry when I hear the government House leader saying that they have to move time allocation so we can get on with other important business."

Does that sound familiar? It should, because that's what Mr Cooke has been telling us: "He is trying to sell a crock to the people of Ontario. It is the government party, the majority party in this House, which orders the business of this House, not the opposition parties."

I couldn't have said it better myself, Mr Charlton. It is exactly what's going on. I'm quoting Mr Charlton word for word in exactly similar circumstances:

"The government party orders the business of this House, and the government of this province is at liberty to deal with any business it so wishes. The government party in this House is not obliged to bring forward the two pieces of legislation which it knows the opposition is going to oppose in every way it can until the other business it wishes to deal with has been completed."

Here Mr Charlton complained that the government called two bills, the Sunday shopping bills that it knew would be controversial, and said, "You shouldn't be doing that." Your government won't even do that. It won't even call bills. They want to call unilateral rule changes, that notice of motion on Orders and Notices. They don't even want to talk about labour legislation or Sunday shopping or auto insurance or other controversial bills. You won't even do what Mr Charlton criticized the government of the day for doing: calling controversial bills.

"So let us not hear from the government any more about how the opposition to Bills 113 and 114 is holding up other important business. That is the choice of the government, not of the opposition benches, and it is part of the procedural scam which we have been going through before and which we are going through again now.

"I think back to the debates in 1982 and 1983, and I am not going to do as my colleagues have done, start reading all kinds of quotes from those debates into Hansard here today, but what I would like to do is discuss the difference between those allocation debates then and the one we are having here today."

Here Mr Charlton is going to pay my party a back-handed compliment.

"My party and the Liberal party, at the time the official opposition, opposed those time allocation motions. Having said that, I have to give credit to the former government, now the third party, for having at least seriously considered the importance of the measures around which it felt it necessary to bring in time allocation....

"I remember the trepidation with which the government of the day moved into that particular phase of debate around, I guess it was Bill 179 or 187, whatever it was.

"At any rate, the debate was a debate of significant importance, and time allocation was only brought in on a

very important matter after very considerable effort on the part of the opposition parties to stall the legislation....

"As one of the other speakers earlier this afternoon said, there is no pressure anywhere in the province to see this legislation pass by closure. It is more the other way. In fact, there is serious sentiment right across this province that the Legislature is wasting its time considering these bills at all."

That was again Mr Charlton, who now of course is the Minister of Financial Institutions in this government, and what he thought about time allocation motions and what he thought about closure motions. That's what he thought in 1989.

He went on near the end of his speech on January 30 to say, "Time allocation motions, which amount in the words of the government House leader to closure, are motions that should never be brought without very serious reserve on the part of the government that brings them."

Now we're going to legitimize them every day here if Mr Cooke gets his way.

"I am going to have to suggest that not only has this government not seriously considered the ramifications of using time allocation in a trivial situation like this one to force through bad legislation, legislation which ultimately is going to come back to haunt it, but that it certainly has not considered it as carefully as I give credit to its predecessor for doing in 1982 and 1983.

"Even though I opposed the time allocation legislation back then, I at least concede that the government of the day more seriously considered its application than this government and this government House leader have considered it here today."

Mr Charlton was quite a busy little bee indeed when it came to time allocation motions.

Mr Beer: A busy little what?

Mr Eves: A busy little bee. He spoke on several different time allocation and closure motions in this place, such as on July 18, 1989.

"Very importantly in this debate this afternoon, we've centred around closure and the whole proposition on the part of the government that somehow 13 months in the legislative process makes for a good piece of legislation."

Here is Mr Charlton complaining because the government of the day in 1989 is introducing time allocation and closure after 13 months of consideration of a bill, and his government here today wants us to legitimize time allocation and closure as a matter of course, as a matter of business, with one hour's debate.

I don't understand. David Cooke didn't think five days of debate per member was nearly enough, and he doesn't consider that to be a filibuster. Mr Charlton didn't think 13 months of consideration of a bill, over a year, was long enough to legitimize the use of closure, and now this government wants it to be part of the standing orders with an hour's debate. I mean, give me a break. Those of us who have been over here and heard the Mr Charltons and the Mr Cookes and the Mr Raes and the Mr Martels over the years find this very difficult to take indeed.

1800

Mr Bradley: I can just hear Elie with this motion.

Mr Eves: Elie is going to be tearing up his membership card and burning it.

Then he goes on to talk about and compliment one of my former colleagues, Dr Bette Stephenson, when she was the Minister of Labour and was going through a process to substantially amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Bill 70 of the day. He thought that Bette Stephenson set a very good precedent as to how governments should deal with very controversial pieces of legislation. You might want to listen to this because the Minister of Labour has one before the House right now.

He talked about two and a half years we spent on this process, on the Family Law Reform Act. He talked about four and a half years that were spent on the Occupational Health and Safety Act process. Four and a half years: He thought that was done properly, that we should have four and a half years of consultation. I am sure the current Minister of Labour will be happy to know that he hasn't even come close to the four and a half years Mr Charlton says you should spend on a controversial piece of legislation, and the two and a half years around the Family Law Reform Act legislation.

I remind you, Mr Speaker, that the two and a half years we spent on the legislative process on that bill in 1977 and 1978 followed probably 10 or 15 years of dialogue, consultation, complaint and controversy in Ontario society that led up to the government finally introducing the legislation that went through considerable debate and amendment for two and a half years before its passage.

"Both of those legislative processes I have described here today are primary examples of why 13 months do not mean anything and certainly do not reflect a piece of legislation that is necessarily...ready for passage." That was on Bill 162.

Here we have Mr Charlton saying two and a half years, that's all right, on consultation. Even after two and a half years—13 months considering the bill, after two and a half years of consultation, is not nearly enough. No government in its right mind would want to invoke closure after a two-and-a-half-year consultation process and after 13 months of considering legislation. It just is too early to introduce time allocation or closure.

Now we have the government of the day, the same people, the same Mr Charlton, the same Mr Rae, the same Mr Cooke, standing up and saying: "We need unilateral rule changes that will allow us to invoke closure on the spot—no discretion to the Speaker—that will allow us to invoke time allocation on one hour's debate, and that's it, it's a done deal, it's over, because we're the government. We have the majority and we can do whatever we want."

I can't believe it's the same David Cooke, I can't believe it's the same Bob Rae and I can't believe it's the same Brian Charlton. I know it's not the same NDP. I know that for a fact, and so does Mel Swart, and so does the current member for Welland-Thorold. Somewhere along the line, they've lost their principles and they've lost their reason for existing and they've lost their

championing of minority rights, of right of free speech, of democracy. They've checked them all at the door on their way into cabinet meetings, on their way into power. They are hidden in the trunk of their limousines, I guess. I don't know where their principles went, but they've lost them all.

I want to give the newer members of the New Democratic Party who haven't had—I don't know whether I'd

call it the privilege—the opportunity to sit here and listen to some of those speeches—I'd like them to reflect on where those people were coming from then and where the same people are coming from now.

It's after 6 of the clock. I think this is an appropriate occasion on which to move adjournment of this debate.

[Report continues in volume B]

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor/Lieutenant-gouverneur: Lt Col The Hon/L'hon Henry N. R. Jackman CM, KStJ, BA, LLB, LLD

Speaker/Président: Hon/L'hon David Warner

Clerk/Greffier: Claude L. DesRosiers

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des comités: Smirle Forsyth

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Journals/Greffier adjoint et Greffier des journaux: Alex D. McFedries

Sergeant at Arms/Sergent d'armes: Thomas Stelling

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Algoma	Wildman, Hon/L'hon Bud	ND	Minister of Natural Resources, minister responsible for native affairs/ministre des Richesses naturelles, ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Algoma-Manitoulin	Brown, Michael A.	L	Chair, standing committee on general government/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Beaches-Woodbine	Lankin, Hon/L'hon Frances	ND	Minister of Health, minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/ministre de la Santé, ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale
Brampton North/-Nord	McClelland, Carman	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on general government/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires gouvernementales
Brampton South/-Sud	Callahan, Robert V.	L	
Brant-Haldimand	Eddy, Ron	L	
Brantford	Ward, Brad	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for trade and technology/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie et délégué au Commerce et à la Technologie
Bruce	Elston, Murray J.	L	opposition House leader/ chef parlementaire de l'opposition
Burlington South/-Sud	Jackson, Cameron	PC	Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Président du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Cambridge	Farnan, Mike	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Carleton	Sterling, Norman W.	PC	
Carleton East/-Est	Morin, Gilles E.	L	Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Vice-Président et Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Chatham-Kent	Hope, Randy R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Community and Social Services/adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Cochrane North/-Nord	Wood, Len	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Natural Resources/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Richesses naturelles
Cochrane South/-Sud	Bisson, Gilles	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Northern Development and Mines, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for francophone affairs/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Cornwall	Cleary, John C.	L	
Don Mills	Ward, Margery	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Government Services/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Dovercourt	Silipo, Hon/L'hon Tony	ND	Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, Minister of Education/président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, ministre de l'Éducation
Downsview	Perruzza, Anthony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister for Skills Development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Dufferin-Peel	Tilson, David	PC	
Durham Centre/-Centre	White, Drummond	ND	Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Président du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Durham East/-Est	Mills, Gord	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Municipal Affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires municipales
Durham West/-Ouest	Wiseman, Jim	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Correctional Services/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Services correctionnels
Durham-York	O'Connor, Lawrence	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Eglinton	Poole, Dianne	L	
Elgin	North, Hon/L'hon Peter	ND	Minister of Tourism and Recreation/ ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs
Essex-Kent	Hayes, Pat	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (agriculture)/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (agriculture)

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
Essex South/-Sud	Mancini, Remo	L	Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Grier, Hon/L'hon Ruth A.	ND	Minister of the Environment, minister responsible for the greater Toronto area/ministre de l'Environnement, ministre responsable du Bureau de la région du grand Toronto
Etobicoke-Humber	Henderson, D. James	L	
Etobicoke-Rexdale	Philip, Hon/L'hon Ed	ND	Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology/ ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie
Etobicoke West/-Ouest	Stockwell, Chris	PC	
Fort William	McLeod, Lyn	L	Leader of the Opposition/chef de l'opposition
Fort York	Marchese, Rosario	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier, parliamentary assistant to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/adjoint parlementaire du premier ministre, adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales
Frontenac-Addington	Wilson, Hon/L'hon Fred	ND	Minister of Government Services/ ministre des Services gouvernementaux
Grey	Murdoch, Bill	PC	
Guelph	Fletcher, Derek	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
Halton Centre/-Centre	Sullivan, Barbara	L	
Halton North/-Nord	Duignan, Noel	ND	Chair, standing committee on the Legislative Assembly/ Président du Comité permanent de l'Assemblée législative
Hamilton Centre/-Centre	Christopherson, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/adjoint parlementaire du Trésorier de l'Ontario et du ministre de l'Économie
Hamilton East/-Est	Mackenzie, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Minister of Labour/ministre du Travail
Hamilton Mountain	Charlton, Hon/L'hon Brian	ND	Minister of Financial Institutions, acting Minister of Energy/ ministre des Institutions financières, ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Hamilton West/-Ouest	Allen, Hon/L'hon Richard	ND	Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Skills Development/ministre des Collèges et Universités, ministre de la Formation professionnelle
Hastings-Peterborough	Buchanan, Hon/L'hon Elmer	ND	Minister of Agriculture and Food/ ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation
High Park-Swansea	Ziemba, Hon/L'hon Elaine	ND	Minister of Citizenship, minister responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ministre des Affaires civiques, ministre déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Huron	Klopp, Paul	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Agriculture and Food (food)/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation (alimentation)
Kenora	Miclash, Frank	L	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Kingston and The Islands/ Kingston et Les Îles	Wilson, Gary	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Culture and Communications/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Kitchener	Ferguson, Will	ND	
Kitchener-Wilmot	Cooper, Mike	ND	deputy government whip; Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/whip adjoint du gouvernement, Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Lake Nipigon/Lac-Nipigon	Pouliot, Hon/L'hon Gilles	ND	Minister of Transportation, minister responsible for francophone affairs/ministre des Transports, ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones
Lambton	MacKinnon, Ellen	ND	Vice-Chair, standing committee on regulations and private bills/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des règlements et des projets de loi privés
Lanark-Renfrew	Jordan, W. Leo	PC	
Lawrence	Cordiano, Joseph	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on public accounts/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des comptes publics
Leeds-Grenville	Runciman, Robert W.	PC	Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Lincoln	Hansen, Ron	ND	Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
London Centre/-Centre	Boyd, Hon/L'hon Marion	ND	Minister of Community and Social Services, minister responsible for women's issues/ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
London North/-Nord	Cunningham, Dianne	PC	Progressive Conservative chief whip/ whip en chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
London South/-Sud	Winner, David	ND	parliamentary assistant to Attorney General, parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for native affairs/adjoint parlementaire du Procureur général, adjoint parlementaire du ministre délégué aux Affaires autochtones
Markham	Cousens, W. Donald	PC	
Middlesex	Mathysen, Irene	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of the Environment/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre de l'Environnement
Mississauga East/-Est	Sola, John	L	
Mississauga North/-Nord	Offer, Steven	L	
Mississauga South/-Sud	Marland, Margaret	PC	Vice-Chair, standing committee on estimates/ Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent des budgets des dépenses
Mississauga West/-Ouest	Mahoney, Steven W.	L	chief opposition whip/whip en chef de l'opposition
Muskoka-Georgian Bay	Waters, Daniel	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Tourism and Recreation; Vice-Chair, standing committee on resources development/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre du Tourisme et des Loisirs, Vice-Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Nepean	Daigeler, Hans	L	Vice-Chair, standing committee on social development/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
Niagara Falls	Harrington, Margaret H.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Housing/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre du Logement
Niagara South/-Sud	Coppen, Hon/L'hon Shirley	ND	Minister without Portfolio, chief government whip/ ministre sans portefeuille, whip en chef du gouvernement
Nickel Belt	Laughren, Hon/L'hon Floyd	ND	Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics/ vice-premier ministre, Trésorier de l'Ontario et ministre de l'Économie
Nipissing	Harris, Michael	PC	leader of the Progressive Conservative Party/ chef du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Norfolk	Jamison, Norm	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, responsible for small business/adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de la Technologie, délégué aux Affaires des petites entreprises
Northumberland	Fawcett, Joan M.	L	
Oakville South/-Sud	Carr, Gary	PC	
Oakwood	Rizzo, Tony	ND	
Oriole	Caplan, Elinor	L	
Oshawa	Pilkey, Hon/L'hon Allan	ND	Solicitor General, Minister of Correctional Services/ Solliciteur général, ministre des Services correctionnels
Ottawa Centre/-Centre	Gigantes, Hon/L'hon Evelyn	ND	Minister of Housing/ministre du Logement
Ottawa East/-Est	Grandmaître, Bernard C.	L	
Ottawa-Rideau	O'Neill, Yvonne	L	
Ottawa South/-Sud	McGuinty, Dalton J.P.	L	
Ottawa West/-Ouest	Chiarelli, Robert	L	
Oxford	Sutherland, Kimble	ND	parliamentary assistant to Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet; Vice-Chair, standing committee on finance and economic affairs/ adjoint parlementaire du président du Conseil de gestion du gouvernement, Vice-Président du Comité permanent des finances et des affaires économiques
Parkdale	Ruprecht, Tony	L	
Parry Sound	Eves, Ernie	PC	Progressive Conservative House leader/ chef parlementaire du Parti progressiste-conservateur
Perth	Haslam, Hon/L'hon Karen	ND	Minister of Culture and Communications/ ministre de la Culture et des Communications
Peterborough	Carter, Jenny	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjointe parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiles, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
Port Arthur	Wark-Martyn, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Revenue/ministre du Revenu
Prescott and Russell/ Prescott et Russell	Poirier, Jean	L	
Prince Edward-Lennox-South Hastings/ Prince-Edward- Lennox-Hastings-Sud	Johnson, Paul R.	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Revenue/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre du Revenu
Quinte	O'Neil, Hugh P.	L	
Rainy River	Hampton, Hon/L'hon Howard	ND	Attorney General/Procureur général
Renfrew North/-Nord	Conway, Sean G.	L	Deputy Leader of the Opposition/chef adjoint de l'opposition
Riverdale	Churley, Hon/L'hon Marilyn	ND	Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations/ ministre de la Consommation et du Commerce
S-D-G & East Grenville/ S.-D.-G. & Grenville-Est	Villeneuve, Noble	PC	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Deuxième Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative

Constituency	Name of member	Party	Other responsibilities
St Andrew-St Patrick	Akande, Zanana	ND	parliamentary assistant to the Premier
St Catharines	Bradley, James J.	L	
St. Catharines-Brock	Haeck, Christel	ND	
			government whip; Vice-Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman/ whip du gouvernement, Vice-Présidente du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman
St. George-St. David	Scott, Ian G.	L	parliamentary assistant to acting Minister of Energy/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Énergie par intérim
Sarnia	Huget, Bob	ND	
Sault Ste Marie/ Sault-Sainte-Marie	Martin, Tony	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Education/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre de l'Éducation
Scarborough-Agincourt	Phillips, Gerry	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Financial Institutions/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Institutions financières
Scarborough Centre/-Centre	Owens, Stephen	ND	
Scarborough East/-Est	Frankford, Robert	ND	Speaker/Président
Scarborough-Ellesmere	Warner, Hon/L'hon David	ND	
Scarborough North/-Nord	Curling, Alvin	L	
Scarborough West/-Ouest	Swarbrick, Anne	ND	opposition deputy whip/whip adjoint de l'opposition
Simcoe Centre/-Centre	Wessenger, Paul	ND	
Simcoe East/-Est	McLean, Allan K.	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Health/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre de la Santé
			Vice-Chair, standing committee on government agencies/ Vice-Président du Comité permanent des organismes gouvernementaux
Simcoe West/-Ouest	Wilson, Jim	PC	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Labour/ adjointe parlementaire du ministre du Travail
Sudbury	Murdock, Sharon	ND	
Sudbury East/-Est	Martel, Hon/L'hon Shelley	ND	Minister of Northern Development and Mines/ ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Timiskaming	Ramsay, David	L	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House/ Premier Vice-Président du Comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
Victoria-Haliburton	Drainville, Dennis	ND	
Waterloo North/-Nord	Witmer, Elizabeth	PC	Chair, standing committee on resources development/ Président du Comité permanent du développement des ressources
Welland-Thorold	Kormos, Peter	ND	
Wellington	Arnott, Ted	PC	Chair, standing committee on the Ombudsman; Vice-Chair, standing committee on administration of justice/ Président du Comité permanent de l'ombudsman, Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'administration de la justice
Wentworth East/-Est	Morrow, Mark	ND	
Wentworth North/-Nord	Abel, Donald	ND	government whip/whip du gouvernement
Willowdale	Harnick, Charles	PC	
Wilson Heights	Kwinter, Monte	L	
Windsor-Riverside	Cooke, Hon/L'hon David	ND	Minister of Municipal Affairs, government House leader/ ministre des Affaires municipales, chef parlementaire du gouvernement
Windsor-Sandwich	Dadamo, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Transportation/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Transports
Windsor-Walkerville	Lessard, Wayne	ND	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Colleges and Universities/ adjoint parlementaire du ministre des Collèges et Universités
York Centre/-Centre	Sorbara, Gregory S.	L	parliamentary assistant to Minister of Citizenship, responsible for human rights, disability issues, seniors' issues and race relations/ adjoint parlementaire de la ministre des Affaires civiques, déléguée aux Droits de la personne, aux Affaires des personnes handicapées, aux Affaires des personnes âgées et aux Relations interraciales
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York Mills	Turnbull, David	PC	Chair, standing committee on social development/ Président du Comité permanent des affaires sociales
York North/-Nord	Beer, Charles	L	
York South/-Sud	Rae, Hon/L'hon Bob	ND	Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs/premier ministre, président du Conseil des ministres, ministre des Affaires gouvernementales
Yorkview	Mammoliti, George	ND	parliamentary assistant to minister responsible for the provincial anti-drug strategy/adjoint parlementaire de la ministre déléguée à la Stratégie antidrogue provinciale

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Second Session, 35th Parliament

Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 22 June 1992

Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Deuxième session, 35^e législature

Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 22 juin 1992

Speaker
Honourable David Warner

Clerk
Claude L. DesRosiers

Président
L'honorable David Warner

Greffier
Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 22 June 1992

[Report continued from volume A]

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STANDING ORDERS REFORM RÉFORME DU RÈGLEMENT

Continuing the debate on government notice of motion number 7 on amendments to the standing orders.

The Acting Speaker (Mr Noble Villeneuve): We are now dealing with Mr Eves's motion to adjourn the debate.

The House divided on Mr Eves's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes 23; nays 57.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Parry Sound had the floor.

Mr Eves: I was just coming to the conclusion of my remarks, and while I gave the government every opportunity to reflect upon some of the quotes from the Premier, the government House leader, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Financial Institutions from years gone by, lo and behold, on my fax machine, as I was down there just now—in fact, it's dated 18:19, which was 6:19, a few minutes ago, and it's from the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 128. I just thought that before the government members rushed out of their seats they might like to hear what a union has to say about how it's proceeding with its proposed labour legislation and why we don't need these unilateral changes to our standing orders, because we need more protection for people to hear.

The letter is addressed to the Honourable Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario, dated June 22, 1992, and it says:

"Dear Mr Rae,

"Re: labour law reform, disaffiliation provisions, benefit plan trustees for the province of Ontario, trusteeship and union democracy in the construction industry:

"In response to the above, please accept the following:

"The proposal for a division of assets between trust funds and the diversion of members' rights in trust funds is a proposal for a nightmare. It will sacrifice the interests of members to the political ambition of officers of a local union, and will in the end achieve nothing of value for the members.

"There is no need for a provision which 'vests' the interests of members in pension and health and welfare plans. The Pension Benefits Act and most trust fund documents achieve that result in any event. It is obvious that even the drafter of this legislation assumed that the disaffiliated local union would set up its own separate trust funds. What will that achieve for the members such plans are designed to serve? We say it will achieve nothing. It will inevitably be a fight over who is entitled to how much and on what basis. It is easy to use simple phrases like 'all the assets of the pension plan attribute to such members,' section 15a(1)(d), but much harder to determine what the phrase means. Will we have plan windups? Transfers on a going-concern basis? Simple divisions based on historical

contributions, with or without purchases service credits? What warranties will be available if the calculation leads to a shortfall in one fund? The possibilities are endless, the costs high, and the potential benefit to members nil.

"There is tremendous value to our members in national health and welfare and pension funds. This legislation invites needless waste of resources of these funds in legal and accounting costs with no direct benefit to the members these funds serve. It is of no value to us at all.

"Labour relations matters:

"This proposal contains a number of unworkable and undemocratic provisions with respect to the future of a trade union after disaffiliation.

"In some senses the proposal wants to have the best of both worlds. The disaffiliated local will maintain a kind of status in its craft—the international or its affiliates may not attempt to operate in the disaffiliated local's geographic area, section 157(6), but must bargain with them as a joint employee bargaining agency, section 158(4).

"These proposals are nonsense. If the principle of freedom of choice to join a trade union means anything, then this government should not be creating little kingdoms based on former geographic divisions of an international union. Section 157(6) is an attempt to deny the chaotic results of such disaffiliation on organizing, bargaining and representation in the province. It simply highlights the problems you will create.

"To suggest that international and independent unions can bargain together after what will no doubt be a bitter split is naïve and dangerous. Bargaining in the ICI sector is difficult enough without enforcing a marriage on one side of the table between parties who have determined to go their own separate ways.

"Why wouldn't the government consult with the construction industry in Ontario before implementing such drastic changes?" this union president wants to know. "These proposed changes are counterproductive and should be withdrawn."

"I would appreciate a response to this matter. I remain,

"Yours truly,

"Joseph Maloney, business manager, Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario."

Then we have a letter dated today to the Premier again. It's by Ed Power, the president, business representative of Local 128.

Hon Mr Pouliot: What has that got to do with the debate?

Mr Eves: It has everything to do with the debate because this government doesn't even want to consult. It wants powers under the standing orders to ram through any piece of legislation, including its labour legislation, without proper consultation, without proper debate—"We want to invoke time allocation, we want to invoke closure and we want to do it unilaterally."

"Dear Mr Rae:

"Re: Labour law reform, disaffiliation provisions, benefit plan trustees for the province of Ontario, trusteeship and union democracy in the construction industry:

"The abovementioned proposed legislation is without doubt going to seriously have a negative impact on members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario.

"Since I will ultimately be the person who has to explain to my membership the possible ramifications, I would appreciate an answer to the following questions:

"1. What happens to national or multiprovincial health, welfare and pension trust funds under the restructuring of benefit plan trustees clause?

"2. If our existing national funds are forced to wind down and restructure provincially, how is this going to impact on the existing pensioners?

"3. Who is responsible for the cost of such a wind-down?

"4. What happens to craft jurisdiction, ie, international trade agreements if one local or an area of a provincial local decided to merge with another union?

"5. Is this proposed legislation going to be binding on the United Steelworkers of America and the Canadian Auto Workers, who are now attempting to create construction divisions?

"6. Why was there no consultation between the building trades and your government on this issue as promised?

"7. How many construction locals have been arbitrarily placed under trusteeship since your government came into power?

"I would appreciate a response to these queries at your earliest possible convenience.

"Your truly,

"Ed Power, president/business representative, Local 128."

This is the very reason we don't want unilateral rule changes: so members of the public out there who have a concern about a particular piece of legislation will have an opportunity to contact and voice that concern through opposition members, will have wide-open public hearings so that they can come and present their case to the government of the day, and to us as both opposition and government members so that we can improve, hopefully, whatever legislation it is and address some of the concerns of concerned people.

I put on the record here today and in my previous discussion where certain influential members of this government stood on the question of time allocation and closure when they were in government. We know they stood firmly against it, despised it, spoke vehemently and from the heart about it and talked about democracy, not being able to stifle opposition members and preserving everybody's right of free speech. Now that they're in government, they don't believe in any of those principles any more. They believe in unilateral rule changes in the province for the first time in Ontario's history.

The same government House leader who, when he was House leader of the official opposition, said, "You can't change rules; you can't do this stuff without consensus; it's supposed to be negotiated in a House leaders' panel meeting," now says: "We want to unilaterally change it. We

don't want to talk about legislation in the last six days, we want to talk about unilateral changes to the rules."

I think their words are going to come back to haunt them. As Mel Swart said over the weekend, "What has happened to the heart and the principles of the New Democratic Party in Ontario? Where has it gone?"

Mr Bisson: Finally, after some time, we have an opportunity on this side of the House to get up and speak about why it is necessary for the government to make the changes we're proposing right now.

Before getting into that, I want to touch on something very quickly. I'm going to write the time down here so I can watch how long I've got.

Why is it that members of the opposition are conducting themselves the way they are with regard to the whole question of rule changes and why is it that they're so upset? I think all members in this Legislature—all parties have had an opportunity to sit in opposition at one time—would probably argue in much the same way, but I think what really irks the opposition and one of the reasons they're so upset about this is that with the changes to the rules in this Legislature, if it should happen, it will totally change the strategy of the opposition. One of the things the opposition has to do in order to get re-elected, in order to try to defeat this government in the next election, is to try to put the case to the people of Ontario that—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The Speaker is having great difficulty hearing the honourable member for Cochrane South. I can assure all members that you will have an opportunity to participate in the debate, so please hold your comments until your turn comes about.

Mr Bisson: There we go, Mr Speaker. I make my case.

The whole question of why the opposition members are so upset is that it changes their strategy. The opposition parties, both Liberals and Conservatives, from the time this House came into session after the 1990 election, have had as their goal and their job, as any political party sitting on that side of the House, to make it to this side in the next election.

Various parties develop strategies in order to do that. Some parties take a look at the question of policy and try to show the people of Ontario that there are policies that are necessary for the people. All parties try to do that to a great extent, the Liberal opposition and the Conservative opposition, and that's fair game; the NDP was in opposition and put that point forward. We talk about policies and issues according to the needs of the people of Ontario, and we talk about how those policies would come into being for the benefit of the people should we get elected. That's fair game. That's what politics is all about. That's what opposition is all about. If an opposition party criticizes the government about a particular policy, that's fair game. Any government that does not have any opposition, I would say, has a certain difficulty, because the opposition is there in order to serve the role of reminding the government every now and then when it does something wrong.

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What has really been happening in this place for the last 18 months is that the opposition has to be able to build

up a whole scenario. They have to try to prove to the people of Ontario—watch them jump wild in a second—that we are incompetent as an NDP government. Oh, they didn't jump wild.

Interjections.

Mr Bisson: There they go. I knew I'd get them there. They have to be able to prove we're not able to do what we want as a government. But how can you make that happen if the story is absolutely not true? You do that by slowing down the process of this House. If the opposition can prove, after four years of government, that the NDP government has not been able to put through the legislation that is necessary in order to benefit the people of this province, its case has weight. For 18 months of sitting in this Legislature it has been very apparent what they've been doing. They've been slowing down the whole legislative process within the Legislature of Ontario.

Monsieur le Président, je le mets très simplement. Ce qu'ils font, c'est qu'ils se tournent de bord et puis ils disent, «Écoute, on va faire un coup aux personnes de la province et puis on va montrer que le gouvernement NPD ne peut prendre des décisions.» Comment est-ce qu'on va faire ça ? C'est très simplement comme ceci : Ils vont tourner de bord, ils vont ralentir tout le processus de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario, et en ralentissant le processus de l'Assemblée ils seront capables de faire leur cas.

Ce dont ils ont vraiment peur avec ces changements-ci, c'est que le gouvernement de l'Ontario ait la chance d'avancer ses projets de loi selon les politiques du gouvernement. Pendant le temps que nous étions dans l'opposition, quand on a voulu prendre des points sur des questions faisant affaire avec certains projets de loi, oui, Monsieur le Président, nous aussi avons fait de l'opposition. Mais nous avons choisi très correctement selon les positions, selon les lois, selon les projets de loi de parler faisant affaire avec l'opposition du gouvernement dans le temps. Mais ce qu'ils font, c'est tous les projets de loi.

J'ai vu parfois à cette Assemblée, comme d'autres membres l'ont vu, même quand l'opposition est d'accord avec un projet de loi du gouvernement et que les Conservateurs et les Libéraux votent en faveur de quelque chose que le gouvernement fait, des débats très longs aux deuxième et troisième lectures. Même dans des débats où les deux partis d'opposition sont d'accord ils vont se lever, ils vont parler pendant deux heures à la fois, ils vont aller, quatre, cinq ou six membres, pour trois ou quatre jours à la fois aux deuxième ou troisième lectures, même s'ils sont d'accord.

Le député qui vient de parler a fait le point que le gouvernement n'avance pas son agenda. Mais ce n'est pas mal difficile d'avancer son agenda, quand une opposition fait des tactiques comme ça. C'est bien simple, très simple. Tout ce qu'ils font, c'est faire de l'opposition pour l'amour de faire de l'opposition et pour arrêter les politiques du gouvernement. C'est aussi simple que ça.

Mais si l'on regarde dans le passé, oui, il y a eu des temps que nous dans l'opposition avons essayé d'arrêter l'agenda de l'Assemblée. Il s'agissait des projets de loi

qu'on a trouvé très importants pour les personnes de la province, mais pas sur tous les projets de loi. On a choisi, comme parti de l'opposition, certains projets de loi que l'on a trouvé très mauvais pour les personnes de l'Ontario. Et oui, on a fait de l'opposition sur le projet de loi 162. On a fait de l'opposition faisant affaire avec l'assurance-automobile, parce qu'on croyait, pendant le temps, que ce n'était pas avantageux pour les personnes de l'Ontario. Mais quand on était dans l'opposition et qu'il y avait des affaires où on était d'accord avec le gouvernement, on n'a pas joué des jeux, on n'a pas fait des points d'ordre, on n'a pas fait des points de privilège et on n'a pas fait sonner les cloches. On n'a pas fait faire toutes ces affaires-là quand on était d'accord avec un projet de loi. C'est très simple.

The other thing that happens in regard to the opposition is that it has to paint a canvas, and it paints this picture for the people of Ontario that no matter what we do on this side of the House, it can't be right.

We heard two previous speakers before talk about amendments to the rent control legislation that was brought in. They talked about the amendments that were made. Yes, there were amendments made, because we said when we came to government that we would listen to the people of this province, and in the process of listening to people, it means you refine your particular positions.

On the question of the Ontario Labour Relations Act, it is the same process. We've gone through a very long process of listening to the people of the province, of going out from community to community in order to listen to what business, labour and other interested parties had to say about that particular bill. Yes, we amended that as well, but they're trying to paint a government that listens and a government that amends its legislation according to what it's hearing as being weak. If we did it the other way around, they'd still be opposing, they'd still be jumping up and down; it's as simple as that. The point is that no matter what we'd do on this side of the House, they would not be happy.

Interjections.

Mr Bisson: I see we have their ire up again, Mr Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Cochrane South has the floor. Please give him the opportunity of participating.

Mr Bisson: You know, I find it very interesting. We just sat through the previous member's two or two and a half hours of debate. There were some interjections on this side of the House but not in the amount we have now. Another thing we see in this House is that any time a government member gets up to speak, all we hear is heckling and jeckling and yelling on the other side of the House. They can't sit and listen to a debate. Why? Because they can't accept that we're the government. They can't accept that on September 6, 1990, the people of this province voted, by majority, an NDP government. They haven't been able to accept that. It is quite apparent.

I sit here in debate and I listen to opposition members of both the Liberal and Conservative parties get up in debate on particular things. All of us on this side of the House at one time made some interjections but never at the level we

have right now. The process is very simple. The interjections are there in order to try to stammer the member who is speaking on this side of the House so that he loses his track or his train of mind, so that somehow or other he will fumble within his speech, so as to try to make it look as if we don't know what we're talking about. It's as simple as that. That's what they're up to.

Mr Steven W. Mahoney (Mississauga West): Now you have got our attention.

Mr Robert V. Callahan (Brampton South): That is the best point you have made.

Mr Bisson: Very good. We got them; finally we got them. The point is, what ended up happening is that it's been constant games in this Legislature since September 1990. That's what's been happening. If you take a look at the legislative agenda in regard to what has happened through the whole process of legislation coming through in the sittings we've been in—the fall of 1990, the spring sitting of 1991, fall 1991 and this one—if you take a look at the pieces of legislation that have been allowed to go through, they are quite a bit different from what was allowed to go through when members of both of those opposition parties sat in government.

When both the Liberals and the Conservatives sat in government, they were able to get, on average, about 30 bills through this Legislature. Why? Because the opposition parties allowed, yes, a debate to a certain extent and allowed the business of the House to go ahead because we understood, as an opposition party, when we were there, that the government does have the right to govern and at the end of the day it must put forward its agenda. Democratically, they have that right.

What ends up happening when we come to government is that no matter what the bill, there is constant interjection, there is constant debate, there is bell ringing, there is every trick that is able to be used in the House to slow down the legislative agenda. They slow down the legislative agenda for one reason. It comes back to their strategy. If you can slow it down long enough to make it look as if nothing has happened, they're able to make the case to the people of the province that we're not doing our jobs. That's what they're up to.

The reason they're so upset is that the rules of the House will allow for debate. The rules of the House as proposed are to turn around and put some sort of rules around this place that make debate in this House somewhat more productive. We quite often see members get up on pieces of legislation that they even agree on and speak for two and three and four hours at a time. If a member can't stand in his place and make the points within a respectable period of time, 30 minutes or an hour—why do you need two hours to make that particular point?

One of the rules we're proposing is that on debates on second and third reading we're going to allow for 30 minutes of debate for a member to get up in his or her seat to speak on that particular piece of legislation. The person who leads off the debate will get 90 minutes. Members of the opposition have called that draconian. They have called it

everything in the book. They have said: "That is unfair. That is a stymie of the parliamentary process."

But you go back and you look at every Legislature across Canada except for Prince Edward Island and Ontario. Every Legislature in Canada and the federal House of Commons have similar rules. Why do they have similar rules? They have similar rules because they have recognized that you have to have a process to allow the Legislature to do its business, to allow the legislation to go through the House. But more important, it's to allow full participation on the part of all members, because one of the things that happens when members in the opposition take two and three and four hours in debate is that it doesn't allow other members who represent ridings across this province to get up and speak in regard to the issues pertaining to their ridings.

What we are proposing is very simple. We are saying if you give 90 minutes to the leadoff person in regard to debate and 30 minutes for every member after, what you're going to end up with is more participation on the part of all the members in this assembly in order for more members to be able to get up and speak about the particular legislation that we're talking about, from their particular aspect of representing their ridings.

Now that is totally democratic. If you were to take a look at some of the other legislatures in regard to that particular rule—for example, the federal House of Commons I think is some 20 minutes—if a member gets up in debate he has 20 minutes in order to make his point, to a maximum in one of the other provinces which I think is somewhere around an hour. So they have 20 minutes to an hour to get up in their spot and debate the legislation coming before the House. They have that amount of time in order to be able to do the debate.

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I think that is pretty reasonable. If you can't come to your point in 20 minutes you have a real problem. If you can't come to your point in an hour you have a real problem. That is basically what that rule is all about: to limit the time of debate, in order to give people the time to be able to represent the views of the people of their riding in regard to those particular rules.

The other question is the time allocation. I understand what the members of the opposition are saying. They say that if the time allocation regulation is put into the standing orders, what you would end up with is an arbitrary use on the part of the government. No. If the members of the opposition want to do constructive debate in regard to debating the issues of the bill, I don't think any government would want to stymie that process.

But if an opposition party or opposition parties and those members decide that all they're going to do is to get up and oppose for the sake of opposing and not turn around and make any valid points other than just obstructing, quite frankly, at that point the government has a responsibility to the people of Ontario to turn around and put limits on that debate and say, "Listen, there are other pieces of legislation we must be able to get through in order to get to the business of the House."

Monsieur le Président, c'est très simple. C'est pour tourner de bord et dire : «Écoute, quand il s'agit de la législation qui passe à travers la province, c'est que chaque député a le droit et la responsabilité de parler de ces projets de loi-là faisant affaire avec les besoins et les aspirations des personnes de leur comté, et c'est leur responsabilité. Mais s'ils abusent de cette responsabilité pour des raisons politiques seulement, le gouvernement a une responsabilité de mettre un arrêt à ce processus-là. On n'est pas ici pour jouer des jeux ; on est élus ici pour les personnes de nos circonscriptions et pour être capables de représenter les personnes de notre comté quand ça vient aux questions de législation.

Venir à cette assemblée et jouer des jeux seulement, Monsieur le Président, ne nous met pas dans l'estime des électeurs dans nos comtés d'une manière qui est très agréable dans leurs yeux. On le sait tous dans cette assemblée : Conservateurs, Libéraux et NPD. On retourne dans nos comtés et on voyage à travers cette belle province, mais on parle au monde dans les rues de la province. Ils disent au sujet des politiciens : «Vous-autres, vous allez à l'assemblée pour jouer des jeux. Vous êtes en train de jouer des jeux seulement pour votre intérêt. Arrêtez de faire ça et commencez à travailler selon les problèmes. Moi comme Ontarien ou Ontarienne j'ai besoin d'avoir un point réglé pour être capable de m'avancer dans cette société. Arrêtez de jouer des jeux.»

La semaine passée il y a eu des classes à travers la province pour tous les députés qui sont venus pour participer à l'assemblée, pour faire une tournée dans notre bel édifice et venir regarder soit la période des questions ou des ordres qui se passaient à l'assemblée elle-même.

Mr Conway: I was wondering if he had said anything about setting back the time by a month.

M. Bisson : Monsieur le Président, s'il vous plaît.

Le Président suppléant (M. Noble Villeneuve) : À l'ordre, s'il vous plaît. À l'ordre, s'il vous plaît. Le député de Cochrane-Sud a le plancher. Vous aurez chacun votre tour.

M. Bisson : Ces groupes-là sont venus à travers, et je me rappelle un groupe de mon comté de l'école Saints-Martyrs qui est venu ici la semaine passée participer à l'assemblée quand il y avait tous les rappels à l'ordre. À un point ils m'ont dit : «Quelle sorte de jeu que vous jouez là-dedans, vous-autres ?» Ça nous met dans l'estime des électeurs de la province d'une manière très agréable devant eux-autres si tout ce qu'on fait c'est jouer des jeux. Le monde reconnaît que, comme politiciens et politiciennes de la province de l'Ontario, on vient à cette assemblée pour travailler pour le monde de nos comtés, qu'on représente leurs vues dans les débats qui se passent ici et qu'on ne joue pas de jeux.

Ce qu'on essaie de faire avec le changement du Règlement ici dans l'assemblée, c'est mettre en place des ordres qui allouent des heures pour avoir le business de la province à travers cette assemblée, c'est passer à travers la législature d'une manière qui fait un peu de bon sang. Si l'opposition ne jouait pas les jeux qu'elle a joués, ces changements-ci ne seraient pas nécessaires. Mais c'est très évident, Monsieur le Président, si l'on regarde ce qui est

arrivé ce printemps-ci, l'automne passé, le printemps passé : il y a eu des situations où l'opposition a opposé seulement pour faire le point d'une opposition ; pas sur des questions de tourner de bord et puis parler seulement d'une politique qui est importante pour leur parti, mais seulement pour s'opposer.

Si l'opposition avait pris une attitude de venir ici et dire, «Écoute, sur les questions sur lesquelles on peut s'entendre comme partis politiques, si on peut s'entendre on va travailler ensemble, et sur les choses politiques sur lesquelles on ne s'entend pas, on n'a pas...

Interjections.

M. Bisson : Monsieur le Président, s'il vous plaît.

Le Président suppléant : À l'ordre, s'il vous plaît. Le député de Cochrane-Sud continue à participer au débat ; donnez-lui le privilège de participer sans interruption. Le député de Cochrane-Sud.

M. Bisson : Merci beaucoup.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The honourable member for Cochrane South is one of the few members who incessantly chats through most of the speeches by the opposition people. He will not abide by the same treatment that he imposes on us. Where is the equality in that?

The Acting Speaker: It's not a point of order.

Le député de Cochrane-Sud, s'il vous plaît.

M. Bisson : Ce n'est même pas un rappel au Règlement et ce n'est pas même proche de la vérité. Il y a des rappels auxquels tous les députés de cette place-ci vont faire des interjections, mais la plupart des députés du côté du gouvernement écoutent. Si le monde regarde la télévision, ils vont voir, quand on peut entendre le plus de «heckling» qui arrive dans cette place-ci, c'est quand le bord du gouvernement parle parce qu'eux-autres ont bien l'habitude.

On essaie, de ce bord-ci de l'assemblée, du bord du gouvernement, de montrer qu'on a du respect pour cette Assemblée et qu'on a du respect pour les personnes de la province, et montrer qu'on peut se comporter d'une manière —

Interjections.

M. Bisson : Voyez-vous, Monsieur le Président, qu'on peut se comporter avec un peu plus de respect envers les personnes de la province.

Mr Speaker, the question of the rule changes is necessary because of the things that were outlined, which was that if—

Interjections.

Mr Bisson: Mr Speaker, I make my case. This is the problem we have in this place. I think you can see the animosity running within this place by the types of interjections going on around you.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. This is a number of times I've had to call the House to order. The honourable member for Cochrane South has the floor very legitimately. You may not agree with all of his comments, but he is certainly free to participate in the debate and make

whatever comments he wishes. You will all have your turn. The honourable member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: Thank you, Mr Speaker. There are a number of pieces of legislation that have to go through this assembly in order to get to the business of this province. We have now seen from all of last week that there's not a bit of legislation coming through here because of the games that were played. We saw a couple of weeks ago, when we were on the Class Proceedings Act—or was it the Courts of Justice Amendment Act? One of those particular bills—we saw three to four days of debate on a bill that both opposition parties agreed on. That's what's been happening around here.

Right now, I'm just going through some of the bills that have to go through this Legislature we haven't been able to get at. We have Bill 1, An Act to establish the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency; Bill 11, An Act to amend the Corporations Tax Act, which is good news for the corporate sector; Bill 20, An Act to amend the Education Act; Bill 23, An Act to amend the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act; Bill 27, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts in respect of School Board Finance; Bill 37, Bill 38, Bill 39, Bill 40, Bills 42, 112, 162, 164 and 165. There are a number of bills.

Interjections.

Mr Bisson: The members in the opposition say, "Call the bills," but it's very difficult. You can put all the bills you want on the order paper, but if you can't get the opportunity to debate to get them through second and third readings, how in heck are you able to get them on the order paper? The point is that if the opposition wants to work along with us on those bills on which they agree so we can get through the business of this House, very well; no problem. But we've been having the whole—

Interjection.

Mr Bisson: The member should be in his own seat, I believe, when he's heckling.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Interjections are out of order, particularly when those interjecting are not in their own seats. The honourable member for Cochrane South has the floor.

Mr Bisson: Thank you. So there are a number of pieces of legislation that have to get through this assembly to be put in place for the people of this province. That cannot happen when you see the constant game-playing that is going on in this place. You have, as you've just seen right now, a 30-minute adjournment in order to amend the debate on a bill. Why is that necessary? Tell me. Is that a good use of time of this assembly, two and a half to four hours of debate on issues?

We've just seen, for example, a two-hour debate in order to move to 12-hour sittings of the House, one week of playing around with that. At every other time that has been done in the province of Ontario since that regulation has been in the standing orders since 1989, you have never seen the government of the day not being able to have the cooperation of the opposition to move to sittings of up to 12 o'clock at night for the last two weeks of the sitting. We

have never seen that. You've seen that now. Why? I think the point—

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Interjections.

Mr Bisson: There they go. Look at them. The members of the opposition are a little bit excited right now, a little bit upset, because it's true.

The point is that they've been slowing down the whole process of this assembly since they've gotten here. The whole point comes down to that they don't want to accept that the Liberal government of the day in 1990 lost the election. The last time I looked at the papers, that's what happened, and they've never been able to accept it. I listen to the interjections during question period; I hear the comments on the other side. They can't live with themselves. They're beside themselves. They haven't been able to deal with the question that they lost.

As for the Conservative Party over there, my God, we don't know where they're coming from half the time. But they have to recognize that the people of Ontario made a decision, and in 1994 or 1995 the people of Ontario will again make a decision, and I'm confident what the people of this province will do. The people of this province, more than likely—I don't have a crystal ball, but I wish I did—will turn around and say—

Interjection: Ha ha.

Mr Bisson: My God, listen to that. That was quite a comment coming from the opposition.

I just thought I'd go through a couple of very quick things. It's fairly obvious what's been happening around this place—very, very obvious.

Mr Randy R. Hope (Chatham-Kent): The Liberals are sad when Tories come back with an empty bus.

Mr Bisson: That's about the size of it. It's very, very obvious. The opposition parties have a game to play. The game they have to play is one day to get to this side of the House, and the way they do that is to build a case with the people of this province. How they turn around and do that is quite simple. They slow down the whole process in this place. They slow down the process to a crawl.

They slow it down to the point of not getting any legislation through, because then they can go to the people of the province of Ontario and they can say: "We told you so. We told you. Look at that. There's no legislation that's come through here. No legislation has come through the Legislature. It goes to show that the government hasn't done its job."

That's why we're doing the rule changes. We're doing the rule changes because it is very, very necessary to have rules that allow the legislation through this House to go through in a smooth and effective manner, and when you've got opposition parties playing the games that quite frankly they've been playing around this place, it is quite, quite, quite something.

Mr Conway: You know, if you knew anything about this place, this might be credible, but for somebody like you to get up and make this speech, that is unbelievable.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Mr Bisson: My God. I just heard the member for Renfrew North—

Interjections: We want Bob. We want Bob.

Mr Conway: I want the Minister of Labour to get up and repeat what he said two years ago. If he's as principled as he says he is, he'll get up and do it and he'll say what he said two years ago, if he's an honourable, principled man. But I don't believe—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. There's a great deal of animosity at this point in time and that will accomplish nothing. The honourable member for Cochrane South has the floor. Please allow him the opportunity of participating and then all other members will have an opportunity.

Mr Bisson: To say what the member for Renfrew North has just said in heckling in this place is quite something. I listened intently while the member for Renfrew North stood in his place and did a vicious attack on our House leader that was totally uncalled for. A personal character assassination is what it was about. And I see the members of the opposition. I make my case. This is what's been going on around this particular place. They just can't live with themselves.

I'd like to read just a couple of editorials that came through in regard to what happened at that time. Out of one of the papers, an article dated May 16: "Our politicians should by now have realized Canadians are sick and tired of the partisan games-playing and silly squabbling that makes a mockery of intelligent debate." This is for you guys.

Mr Stockwell: The biggest bunch of hypocrites I have ever met in my life.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member for Etobicoke West please withdraw that comment?

Mr Stockwell: Yes, I withdraw that comment.

Mr Bisson: It is extremely difficult to come into this House and be able to participate in an intelligent debate when you have the kinds of things that are happening right now in the opposition. We have just sat through one of the members from the Conservative Party, the honourable Conservative House leader, and we've sat through the debate from the member for Renfrew North. They have gone on at very long lengths of two, three and four hours in debate, and to a certain extent there was an amount of quietness in this part of the House in regard to the government and in regard to the debate that was going on.

I've had the floor for some 25 minutes now. For 25 minutes, we've heard heckling from that side of the House. We've heard people calling other members names that should not be used even in the school yards of this province, utilizing the kind of language on this side of the House that quite frankly is unfitting and disrespectful on the part of elected representatives coming to this House.

Mr Harnick: You guys aren't used to working in the summer, are you? This will be a real treat.

Mr Bisson: Listen to them again.

Mr Bradley: On a point of privilege, Mr Speaker: I think it's very unfair for the member for Cochrane South to make those kinds of statements to people who are out there watching as though everybody is sitting there using

language that they wouldn't normally hear in a school yard. He only need listen to the entire House, and I'm not saying the opposition or the government, but he should listen to the entire House before he starts making those judgements.

The Acting Speaker: I don't believe it's a point of privilege; it's an opinion. The honourable member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: I would tend to agree it's more a point of opinion than anything else.

Just before I finish, one little quote from the leader of the third party, Toronto Sun, May 4. Put very succinctly at that time in regard to what's happening in this Legislature, this is from Mr Harris: "I'm in effect hijacking the system."

I haven't had the chance to go through all the material I'd prepared to go through this debate. It's been rather difficult with what's happened on that side of the House. But to finish it all up, it comes down to this: The opposition parties are upset because they know that with the rule changes they are not going to be able to keep up their games. With these rule changes we in this Legislature will then have to get to the business of this province, the business that is supposed to come forward before the 130 members who sit in this Legislature and debate it according to the needs and aspirations of people of this province.

The rule changes that we are introducing are very simple. We're saying that members will have 30 minutes to get up and to debate once getting up on legislation at second or third reading. If a member can't make his point in 30 minutes, he may as well sit down.

We're also turning around and we're saying in regard to the question of time allocation that if the opposition parties want to utilize the rules of the House in order to hijack the process, such as the leader of the third party has said in the Toronto Sun on May 4 in regard to hijacking this Legislature, the government has the opportunity to bring in time allocation on debate.

The rules are necessary. It's quite apparent from what we have seen. The whole time we've been in government, since 1990, we have seen a constant haggle within this House on the part of the opposition to slow down the entire process. If they want to get on board and they want to work along with us, and oppose where they feel there are issues that it is necessary to oppose, yes, they should do so, but not to slow down the whole legislative agenda of this government. They have a responsibility in opposition to represent the people of their constituencies. Not all the people of their constituencies see things the way they do, and they should come into this assembly with that in mind.

With that I would like to sit down and cede my place to somebody else.

The Acting Speaker: Further debate? The honourable member for Brampton South.

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Mr Callahan: I really feel exceptionally honoured to be able to participate in this debate tonight. In fact, I'm surprised the House is not jammed to the rafters, not for my speech, but because this is one of the most important issues that will ever be debated in this House. I think the

people in the press have perhaps misunderstood just how important it is to be able to speak freely in this place.

I watched Bob Fisher on Global Television. Bob Fisher said, "A pox on everybody's house." Bob Fisher was talking about the most essential commodity that we as legislators have in this democratic state; it's the right to be able to speak freely without the possibility of the government of the day, because it has a majority, being able to cut us off like a guillotine.

I'm really surprised that tonight in this House, because the government wanted extended sittings, there will not be more people here on the government side to listen to this most important debate, to participate in it, to not turn it into a partisan fiasco or a circus. It is very important.

I know the frustrations of you people over there, the backbenchers. The cabinet ministers don't have that frustration, but the backbenchers have it. You can feel it. We've experienced it when we were over there. You want to speak out. You want an opportunity to speak out. You think this is going to give you that opportunity? Well, I have news for you. It won't. It will allow your political masters—that consists of the Premier, probably the Treasurer, probably the House leader, perhaps the Minister of the Environment and perhaps about six or eight unelected spin doctors back there on the second floor—to decide what will be important for the people of Ontario.

You have to believe this. When I'm speaking tonight, I'm not talking to you in a partisan vein. I'm talking to you in terms of this being the most important debate that will take place in this House for a long period of time. Now you say, "Why?" I think it's important to explain to the people of Ontario why it's important. Because the proposal by the House leader, which was done unilaterally, takes a matter called closure which in a non-democratic state would be understood as being silencing you and not giving you the right to represent the people that elected you. Closure exists on our rules and orders now, but what it does do is it interjects the Speaker. The Speaker has the right to decide whether or not there's been sufficient debate in this House that the rights of the minority have been protected.

We all represent people of Ontario. I'm sure that you as good legislators, as we in our constituency offices, are prepared to serve people of whatever political stripe. It doesn't matter if they're Liberal, New Democratic, Conservative. They're the people we represent. They gave us the sacred trust. I'm sure that people in this House have been elected by people who probably don't understand the political process. We as politicians tend to think that everybody's got a political stripe.

I think if you walked down your main street in your town you'd discover that these people don't have any political stripe. What they've got is they've got a concern. They're concerned about whether their job will be there. They're concerned about whether their kids can go to a school where there'll be discipline and there won't be killings and muggings. They're concerned about the question of whether they'll have decent housing.

I think that's the reason we all get into politics. We get into politics to serve the people. It's not a question of whether you're on the government side or on the opposition side or

the third party side. You're here to serve the public. Now I think you have to think about that in terms of how these rules affect your ability as a member to serve the constituents who put that trust in you. If you think for one minute that what you're doing here is a progressive step, I've got news for you. It's not.

There are some of the contents of this proposal that perhaps make sense: the question of 30-minute time limits on debate. That may give you people as backbenchers an opportunity to speak, if the whip or the House leader or the powers to be in caucus say you can speak. I don't know how my friend from—

The Acting Speaker: Order. On a point of privilege, the honourable member for Cochrane South.

Mr Bisson: A very fast point of order. Notice how quiet it is around this place.

The Acting Speaker: Order or privilege?

Mr Bisson: Privilege.

You would notice that it's very quiet around this House within debate, unlike what we've seen when government members are up.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. That's not a point of order or privilege.

Mr Callahan: I don't understand how the member for Cochrane South got to be the designated hitter in speaking on this matter, but I'm sure that it was done in some way, sort of the short straw or the long straw, or rolling of the dice or whatever, and I'm sure a lot of you people over there—I can feel it; I've talked to you people—would like to have had that opportunity to be able to speak, because I think you people over there, a lot of you, the ones I've talked to, want to serve your people. You want to serve the people who elected you. You want an opportunity to be able to participate. You want an opportunity to be in a system that will provide the opportunity to do that. We had the Deputy Speaker, Victoria-Haliburton, bring a private member's bill to talk about the reform of this place, to change it, to make it more effective, to make it worthwhile, to make it mean something.

The longer you're here, the more complacent you get because you figure: "Well, if I'm here after three terms, I can be elected for ever. No one will ever put me out of this comfortable place." We're going to make it more comfortable: We're going to have night sittings. None of you has ever seen what night sittings were like in this place. I think it was described by my friend from the Ottawa Valley as being situations where, after dinner, the amount of work you got done was directly proportional to the size of your bill on the wine list and so on at dinner.

Now, do you want that? Do you want to take time away from your families to sit here at night and to participate in what is really a non-debate? Do you want that opportunity?

Interjection.

Mr Callahan: No, you're suggesting Monday and Tuesday nights, that that's going to be the order of the day. I suggest to you that that's really a waste of time.

The problem you've got—and it's not necessarily a problem that you people have created totally; Mr Speaker,

they haven't created this situation totally. What in fact has happened is that the House leader for the New Democratic Party has poisoned this Legislature. He has taken those steps by unilaterally going to the press and telling the press exactly what he was going to do. I often wonder if he had his hand in his coat like Napoleon, because he broke one of the traditions of this House that should not be broken: that this place doesn't run on an autocratic rule; it does not run on the basis of you guys having more than we have. It operates on the basis of cooperation. Cooperation will get you a lot more than the jackboots and the efforts to do things secretly by slipping notice on the table on Thursday and not letting anybody know about it.

I think the public has to understand that the net effect of two of the measures in these rules are totalitarian. The first one is the question of closure. What closure means is that when the government of the day, which is supposed to be looking after the interests of the people of Ontario, decides it's heard enough, it just brings it in and zip, it's like Madame Lafarge doing the sweater while the guillotine goes down.

I have to say to you that if I were out of this place and sitting back in Brampton as an unelected member and I realized that my representative was going to have absolutely nothing to say, may never get on the panel to speak, may not have an opportunity to say anything, because this draconian measure was being brought in, I would be down in front of the Legislature by the thousands protesting this interference with democratic society.

We're watching in eastern Europe people who for tens and tens of years have been denied even the slightest little bit of thumbnail democracy, and we are in fact now taking upon ourselves the opportunity, with a majority government, to say, "Sorry, but we're going to introduce this, and we are now going to say when you can talk, how long you can talk, and then we cut you off."

Mr Kimble Sutherland (Oxford): No, we're not.

Mr Callahan: I'll tell you, some of the members over there, I don't think you've read through the rules. If you did, you would understand that the present rule on closure—nobody ever wants to use the C-word; it's always "time allocation," because that's secret, nobody knows what it is. But the big C-word, closure, presently requires you, Mr Speaker, to have the right to intervene to protect the rights of the minority.

We represent people of this province as well. We may not be the government, we may not drive the swell cars and all the rest of it, but we in fact represent people from our community. I represent something like 90,000 people in my community. Those people are very important to me, of whatever political stripe they are. My constituency office and the people in my office at Queen's Park who admittedly do all the work—I think if we're all honest; we take all the bows but they do all the work—work hard for all the people of my riding.

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You're cutting off any opportunity I might have to speak. Some of you might say: "Amen, great thing. Maybe it'll shut him up," as the member from the Ottawa Valley

commented. But think about it. You are not in government for ever. It is not the divine right of kings. You have to understand that. You will one day be over here in either the opposition or the third party.

When you say to the people as you're getting elected, "I'll represent you, I promise," and you take the oath before the Clerk, you have to understand that these rules have literally cut you off. You'd be lying to the constituents. It's bad enough now. You sort of tell them a white lie now because you say, "When I get elected, I'm going to do thus, thus and thus." But if we explained how this whole place works, it doesn't work that way. We all know that. George, you know that. This place works on the basis of you're either in the inner circle or you're in the outer circle. If you're on the outer circle, you're nothing more than a glorified ombudsman. You have nothing to do or say about what legislation comes down the pipe that's good for Ontario. The determination of what's good is reflected by a number of things.

Hon Elmer Buchanan (Minister of Agriculture and Food): Is that how they run your caucus?

Mr Callahan: The Minister of Agriculture and Food has intervened—a nice fellow.

The issues that are important in terms of legislation are based directly on ideology of the party in power and what's a sexy political issue. It's not based on what's important for the people of Ontario. If that were the case, there would not be people sleeping on the streets of Toronto, there would not be food banks, there would not be people whose children cannot get enough money, there would not be children's aid societies that are underfunded and so on, because those people would be looked after. To New Democrats, and I think as well to all members of the Legislature, those are grave concerns.

But what do we do? We have money for everything. We have money for Jack Layton at \$300 a day. We have money for this, we have money for that. But we don't have money for those issues that are important to each and every one of us.

I know you people sit over there and you must feel totally frustrated. Sometimes you want to sneak off and start your own caucus. That's happened in every party. You want to go off and start up sort of a shadow caucus because you're tired of what your government is doing or what this select group of people is doing. You're playing right into their hands, believe me. People must be astounded.

It's almost like the wave during the Blue Jays game in this place. When there's something announced that the government wants a vote on, it's like the wave. It goes right down your entire benches and you all vote for it. I don't criticize you for that because that's happened since time immemorial as well. That's why this place needs to have the roof blown off, and it has to be reformed.

Hon Mr Buchanan: By these rule changes.

Mr Callahan: No. The Minister of Agriculture and Food says, "By these rule changes." You're not reforming this place by these rule changes, Mr Minister. What you're in fact doing is you're constricting it. You're giving those special powers the right to constrict you even more.

The second one is question period in this place. Every tourist in Ontario comes down and thinks: "That's the Legislature. It's great. Loved it. It was exciting. It was great theatre." The proof of the pudding is it is theatre. More often than not the questions that are asked are answered with a question or they are not answered at all. Our rules allow for that. If you want to change the rules in a reasonable and productive way, make the rules say that if a minister is asked a question, he or she has to answer the question. That's the whole purpose of this process.

But we don't do that. What we do is we start playing with things like question period has to start at 4 o'clock, and if for some reason the proceedings are delayed, we could in fact wind up with half an hour of question period. As imperfect as it is, it does give us an opportunity to at least get some answers from some of the ministers or at least get some idea of what they're thinking about over there. If they cut off that period, that's again a trammelling of democracy.

I was born and raised in the United States and made a wise decision to come to Canada to go to university and stay here. But I have to think back to the US roots of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death," the Boston Tea Party.

Mr Stephen Owens (Scarborough Centre): Do we have any choice on that?

Mr Callahan: Are you saying you have no choice about these rules? You should have. If you can't vote independently, then you'd better not go back and ask for the vote of your constituents.

The Boston Tea Party, "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

What in fact we're doing here is limiting the right of debate. I'm going to give you a quote from the new Encyclopaedia Britannica, and it talks about parliamentary procedure as follows:

"Parliamentary procedure, also called rules of order, the generally accepted rules, precedents and practices commonly employed in the government of deliberative assemblies"—that's what we're supposed to be. "Such rules are intended to maintain decorum"—which they don't—"to ascertain the will of the majority and to preserve the rights of the minority and to facilitate the orderly transaction of the business of an assembly."

As I listen to the members on the government side who have spoken on this issue—there have not been that many and I hope there will be more, because this is a very important issue, one of the most important to this place—what you're saying is that because of the shenanigans over here, because of the loose rules, you can't get through your legislative agenda.

Let's for a second suggest that that's true. I don't accept that hypothesis, because you could have called all sorts of orders and we would have been prepared to deal with them. Instead, you wanted to mess around with time allocation, you wanted to mess around with evening sittings, you wanted to mess around with everything else. Had you been interested, or your House leader, who seems to be the guy who's running this whole thing, been interested, there

were all sorts of bills that could have been passed. Instead, he's chosen to throw down the gauntlet and say to the third party House leader and the official opposition House leader, "Sorry, guys; I have made my decision and this is what it will be."

He negotiated through the press. You people are familiar with labour disputes and with collective bargaining. How many of you people would approve of either management or labour negotiating through the press and trying to get a leg up, instead of bargaining in good faith? In fact that's what your House leader did. Your House leader bargained through the press. He tried to embarrass the House leaders of the third party and the official opposition into accepting his way or the gate.

Well, I'm sorry. If there's one thing I will not accept, and I would hope no member of this House would accept, it would be the silencing or the muzzling of me as a member who represents the riding of Brampton South. There is no way I'm going to allow this place, this House, this chamber where democracy stops—because you can't go much beyond this. There's no appeal to the Court of Appeal. You can't even appeal the Speaker's rulings any more, even if they're wrong.

What you're doing is tightening the screw. You're not tightening it: You're just following orders, you're joined at the hip, you're doing exactly what every other majority government has done; when you're told to jump, you jump. And you haven't even got the benefits of that. The ministers at least have the limos, the special perks, all the rest of it. You guys have got nothing. You may have a few little crumbs they give you, with which they threaten you, "If you don't vote with us, you lose." We've seen that happen with one of your members who had the guts to vote against his party on an issue because he felt conscience-wise bound to do it, and he lost his chairman's job and 10 grand.

You can sit over there tonight and say, "Callahan, you don't know what you're talking about, you're trying to bend my mind," or you can walk out, as one of the members is about to do, or you can walk in, as one of the ministers is about to do, and you can say to yourself: "It doesn't matter. It's a cushy job. There's no heavy lifting and you don't have to work in the rain." That's really what you're saying by being joined at the hip over there and voting for every measure the government says, and I don't say that disparagingly. You are not unique. You did not invent this whole process. This process was invented a long time ago.

But what you have the opportunity to do—and it may be a very limited opportunity if you're only here for one term—is that you have the opportunity to make a difference. If you have left your family, be you male or female, and you don't have the opportunity of seeing your kids every day, you've given up a great deal. Make it mean something. Don't allow that Napoleon, your House leader, to dictate to you how you will vote on these rules, because these rules will come back to haunt you. They will in fact decapitate your tongue, because you will not be able to speak. They have been designed to stop the member for

Welland-Thorold from speaking in debates on the insurance bill.

Interjection.

Mr Callahan: They have been designed to prevent the member for Welland-Thorold—and I wish he'd stop speaking now. I wish the rules were maybe in place for just a minute. They have been designed to stop any opposition whatsoever to the Minister of Labour's bill.

I say that with great respect to the Minister of Labour. I've been here since 1985 and I have never heard the Minister of Labour talk other than on what he's putting forward in the legislation. For that I respect the man. It just doesn't happen to be, in our humble position and that of the majority of the people of Ontario, the appropriate bill. It has to be looked at. It has to be examined to make certain we don't overthrow that balance we have between labour and management. We can't afford to do that in a crisis time as we have now. It's not trying to favour one side or the other, management or labour; it's saying you can't destroy that balance.

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The minister puts forward a bill, but we're going to debate the rules first. We're going to bring in the guillotine rules first, the rules that will prevent us from inspecting that bill—and you people from inspecting that bill, for that matter—to its nth degree to ensure that it doesn't disturb that balance between labour and management and thereby throw more people out of work or create a greater and deeper recession. You have that opportunity.

You have a unique experience. The fact is that only you as members can come into this chamber. Doesn't that just blow your mind? That's awesome. That should also tell you the awesome responsibility you have as a member. You have a privilege. A stranger can't come in here. You have a privilege. If you miss the opportunity for that privilege, it may very well make our society down the line a little less favourable for your kids and mine and for my grandchildren. I'm sorry, but I didn't come down here to waste the time, to simply be told what I should do, when I should do it and how I should do it.

Mr Len Wood (Cochrane North): You've been wasting it for the last 20 minutes.

Mr Callahan: I'm told by one of the members over there, and I don't know what his riding is, that I've been wasting their time for 20 minutes. If I have been, then you've just turned off your mind. I wish you luck, because you're going to be called upon to be responsible either here or someplace else for the power you had or the ability you had and the right you had to do something good for your fellow man, and you didn't do it.

In any event, I come from a background where for these type of rules to be introduced—in a courtroom scenario, let's say, if they were to introduce these rules and say, "All right, you're only allowed one half-hour or one hour for the trial, and you can only ask 30 questions during the trial and then off with the person's head or send him off to jail," I would be totally astounded that we would allow that to happen in a free and democratic society.

One may say that here it's a different scenario. Here we're only dealing with people's rights in terms of future

rights through legislation; we're not dealing with their rights in a courtroom scenario. But we are dealing with their rights. We're allowing, particularly in committees—committees are really something the public should attend to see how they're run. We all know how the committees are run, and these rules will apply to committees as well.

So you have a majority government. You get on to a committee. You've gone out and spent \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000 or \$400,000 to hear from the public all over this beautiful province. Then you come back to the committee to do clause-by-clause and there's not one change made in the legislation; or, in the alternative, the government members who have the majority rule on that committee say, "We're invoking closure." So the Chairman says, "Okay, we come back here into the House and we ask the Speaker." The Speaker says, "Closure." That's it.

So you've got \$400,000 just whipped down the drain. You've got these people on that so-called committee who've taken time out of their lives to travel around the province supposedly serving the people who are out there watching this, hopefully. What I'm trying to do is tell them that it's not as simple as the press says. It's not a question of dilatory actions on the part of the opposition. We're trying to tell people that what's happening out there in fact is the most important event of their lives. They are seeing democracy shut down in two areas: The closure motion where the Speaker no longer has the right to intervene to protect their rights, and the question of whether question period may be held or may not be held.

Lord knows, it's established a principle. If David Cooke, the member for Windsor-Riverside, accomplishes this, if he achieves this success, well then, what else? He could achieve anything he wants in here. He could literally shut down the place or tell us, "We'll introduce 12 bills today and you've got one minute to speak." It allows for all sorts of things. You've given them a chance to put the iron fist down and say this is the way it will be.

For crying out loud, I've talked to a lot of you people on a personal level. I've been on committees with you, and I think you people really represent very honest and concerned people who came here for a reason. Don't let them shackle you.

Mr Bradley: They're not listening to you.

Mr Callahan: Well, they should be. I've been chairman of probably eight or nine committees in this place over the time I've been here. I have always tried to be impartial and I think some of you who have served on those committees perhaps will endorse that.

You have, however, created a situation where the Speaker can no longer protect the rights of the minority. I guess in order to understand that, you have to be a minority. It's kind of interesting when you look around this place—and you heard my friend the member for Parry Sound reading back the speeches from the now Premier, then opposition leader, Bob Rae; from David Cooke, now House leader and minister of whatever—minister of everything, I guess—and reading the speeches from Minister Mackenzie, Minister of Labour. Maybe that's why those speeches are so much along the lines of what we're saying,

that closure is dangerous, it's undemocratic, it is frightening, it's closing up the crack. We're building the wall. You know, all over the world, the walls are coming down and democracy is reigning free. By these two strokes of the pen on those two issues we are in fact creating for Ontario a question of putting the power in the hands of a very small minority—absolute power. It's absolutely frightening, and that's why I say I can't understand it.

If you tried to put restrictions on the crap the press puts in page 2 of the Sun, if you tried to object to that or you tried to object to some other pornographic literature that it puts forward, there would be the cry, "Freedom of the press; you're taking away our freedoms." Where are they tonight? Not to be found—nowhere. Where are they? Where is the press?

You have to understand what the press does in this place. They get their quick fix and they disappear. They should be more importantly involved in being here to discuss what they consider to be so vital to their needs that they can write anything they like. They can create harangues in the press that cause all sorts of problems and get away with it. If we try to interfere, "Well, my God, you're interfering with freedom of the press."

Some of the crap that appears in those papers in terms of the advertisements that kids look at and get hosed into—yet the press, where is it? They're not here. They can't be bothered. They got their story, their quick fix; they can't be bothered looking at what's happening to these rules. They think it's just game time at the Legislature, that the opposition is over here playing the game of trying to delay you. Of course we're trying to delay you. We're delaying you because you are trammelling the rights of this entire place, and what you trammel now, you trammel for yourself; those footprints will be yours.

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If you're prepared to sacrifice those rights now, then I really think you've not done your job. You won't get defeated in the next election because you failed to serve your people in terms of your constituency or your Queen's Park office; you will fail because the people will understand, as bills are ramrodded through this place on the basis of this.

Mr Agnew, how are you doing? Good to see you. There's a spin doctor there just going to the back. He's checking out this whole thing, trying to figure out whether I've convinced any of you that guys like him—with all due respect to him; I don't even know him. He's just another spin doctor; they've been around for time immemorial. The pharaohs probably had them, and the kings and everybody else. But in fact what you're allowing them to do is to take away your rights, and every little bit of the right they take away to speak in this place is one more move towards an undemocratic society.

I really find it interesting. You people have your agenda. I don't necessarily endorse your philosophy. I must say I feel great empathy for people and there are a lot of things I'd like to see done if I could wave a magic wand and get them done. I sometimes sympathize with some of the things you're trying to do because I feel that I'm concerned about them. I don't like to see people sleeping in the streets. I don't like to see kids who are being abused. I don't like to see

children's aid societies which don't have enough money to deal with the kids that come to them. I'd like to see more money for the court system. I'd like to see different ways to deal with people. I'd like to see less crime on the streets and all the rest of it. I think we all have those aspirations; nobody has a total monopoly on them. But if we don't do something, if we don't stop the powers that be from changing those rules in those two specific areas, then in fact what we have done is endorse them. We've given them the right to do it, and that's rather staggering.

The member for Cochrane South made a comment that we should listen to the people of Ontario. But did you ever think—and this is not my thinking; this is actually the thinking of James Renwick, who was a noted parliamentarian in this House. I would endorse his speech in 1982 for any one of you to read, because the man made eminent good sense. He was sitting over here as either the third party or the opposition—I'm not sure—castigating the Conservative government of the day for trying to bring in time allocation. That's what they called it; it was really closure. He made a speech that made a lot of sense. I would suggest, if you have any time, that you read it. It's about five or six pages long, and it is excellent.

One of the things I want to take out of his speech which I think is very important is the factor that we have been accused of wasting time in terms of dealing with legislation.

[Applause]

Mr Callahan: Mr Mammoliti, the member for Yorkview, applauds. I thought you'd let me finish, George, because I think you'll appreciate this. It's one of your members, a very good member who is now out of the House, but I want to tell you what he said. It made sense to me when I read it.

He said that if the opposition is given the tools to allow public opinion to catch up with what is being proposed by the government, then in fact what you get is public opinion either behind the legislation or against it. If that happens, then we serve the majority of our constituents.

Let's face it: You people as New Democratic Party members have your own philosophy; I as a Liberal have my own philosophy; members of the Conservative Party have their own philosophy. But what gives us the right to drive through our philosophy on the people of Ontario until we're sure we have the majority support for it? Doesn't our society work on the basis of majority rule? Isn't that the foundation of a democratic society? I'm sure you don't do this, but it would be kind of like taking the approach that in my constituency office, because I'm a Liberal, I would only serve Liberals; you would only serve New Democratic members and the Conservatives would only serve Conservatives. So as you came into the office, you'd pull out your party card and you'd be checked to see whether you were one of those three parties.

Surely to heaven that's not our purpose. Our purpose is to serve the needs of people of all parties in this province. As I said before, if you miss that opportunity, you have missed out.

I think back to the expression, to those to whom great power has been given, great will be demanded. You will have to be accountable at some point to your children, to perhaps other areas, for the rights, abilities and responsibilities you were given, and if you don't carry them out, then you will be a person who will have to account very seriously for that. It's a missed opportunity.

We've all seen missed opportunities in our lifetime: We should have played harder at a sport, we could have been the fullback of that team; or we should have studied hard, we could have got that opportunity to advance in some other career. Those are missed opportunities, perhaps not of the magnitude of the accountability we will have to our grandchildren. I suggest you look at that very closely.

But Jim Renwick had the good sense to say that the reason these rules are in place is to allow the opposition the opportunity to ensure that public opinion supports those measures. I don't think it goes without saying that there's a large majority of people out there who don't understand the labour relations legislation. There are those who oppose it fundamentally because they're of a particular mindset. There are those who still have an open mind. There are those people who want to hear; they want to give you input. What kind of input can they possibly give you if they know that the politicians they have elected, be they NDP, Conservative or Liberal, have their hands tied because they're limited in their debate? And the Speaker has the opportunity to intervene and push the guys aside and say: "Hey, look, you guys are bigger than the other guys. We want to give them more time to speak." But that right is being taken away.

For the life of me, I can't understand why the government House leader would have ever suggested that. That goes beyond the worst thing I can think of. He must have got that out of *Mein Kampf*. It couldn't possibly be in any democratic book. It couldn't have been taken from any Eastern European country where they had suffered the slings and arrows of being silenced, of being denied the slightest and smallest right. Surely he must understand that.

To try to understand the House leader, the House leader did something dastardly. He snuck in on a Thursday and stuck a motion on the table to try to fool us. Once he did that, it was kind of like Judas; he didn't know what to do. He felt badly about what he'd done and flung the 30 pieces of silver back at the priests. David did that, and then he did this press release. When he was found out, he realized he had destroyed a principle of this House that makes the place work, and that principle is cooperation, consensus.

We may not agree on all the legislation, but over the almost eight years I've been here, if we didn't have cooperation we would have sat here some periods until the spring thaw. We wouldn't even have got out at Christmas. It's amazing how quick politicians can come to consensus when it means getting home for Christmas. They can see the Christmas tree lights. There are 105 bills or something on the Orders and Notices and suddenly they're all done. They're done because there is consensus in this place. The minute you poison that consensus, you've ruined it.

What I say to David Cooke tonight is: David, member for Windsor-Riverside, you're forgiven—I think. Come on

out. Let's negotiate a sensible arrangement. Let's get on with the people's business. Let's stop playing the games you're playing. I know your pride may be hurt by having to admit you were wrong. But please come forward and get together with the House leader for the third party and for the official opposition and let's get this place operating for the benefit of all the people of Ontario. Let's not just have it operate.

It's interesting; there are four seats there. The Minister of Culture and Communications, is back there shaking her head. You're in the back row for a reason, let me tell you. It's all done in the order of prominence.

Hon Ed Philip (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): That's why you're where you are.

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Mr Callahan: I don't know whether Ed is in the inner circle, but I certainly think the Minister of Labour is. I certainly think Ruth Grier is. I certainly think the member for Windsor-Riverside is; certainly my good friend the Treasurer and the Premier himself. The rest of you are important when it comes to a vote, and you should always remember that, because if you don't vote the right way, you're finished.

Hon Mr Philip: Where are you, Bob?

Mr Callahan: The former Minister of Transportation makes a comment, and I have to admit I often was a bit of a maverick. I felt that the first obligation was to your constituents. The Premier did not get you elected; the Premier will not get you re-elected. You get yourself re-elected. If you do a poor job out there, you won't be here a second term.

[Applause]

Mr Callahan: The member for Yorkview applauds. I don't know whether you were applauding your own demise or what. In any event, to get off the partisan—I'm sorry, you dragged me into a partisan area. I didn't want to get into a partisan area.

It's important to understand that the rules that have been proposed are so far-reaching. We've heard discussions here that the rules mirror-image some of those of other Commonwealth areas. I suggest to you that's not the case, most specifically with the question of closure. I know you've had some bedtime stories from past speeches by various people read to you by the leader of the third party, and I'd like to read you a few too, because what goes around comes around. That's why anything you say in this place, you'd better mean what you're saying and be convinced that what you're saying is true and fair and honest, or it will come back to haunt you.

It's not hard to understand why in the United States there are some 70 congressmen who are not running for re-election. They're first-termers; they're not running for re-election. Why are they not running for re-election? They're not running because they were totally demoralized by the whole process. The process gave them absolutely no empowerment, gave them no ability to do anything. Most of the agenda's probably arranged by the lobbyists—fortunately, I don't think we've got to that stage yet—in the United States, and really made giving up that time out of their lives for public service a waste of time.

You people are still newly elected. Hopefully, you have not yet fallen into the complacency that seems to creep into the bones of people after they've been around here for a while, particularly if they've been given a smell of power, that their constituents come second and their perks and their comfortable pews become primary, and they read their press clippings. Press clippings are really big; you can read about how you did this, this and this. In fact, when you've stood up in the Legislature to speak on a matter, you have not represented the views of your constituents, nor have you voted the way they want you to.

When I look at Jim Wiseman—I can't remember what his riding is, but he's being burned alive by the Minister of the Environment. She's done nothing, even though they stood on the edge of Whitevale, I think it was, and made all sorts of promises. Now it's not happening. The Premier came out to my riding and stood in front of a school and said they'd get rid of the portables. He stood in the Rouge Valley: "No dump." What've we got? He's not even prepared to answer the questions on it. He shoots them over to Ruth.

I don't know about yourselves, but I find that the most important issue in this place is to start by not allowing those rules to be ramrodded through, at least those two; that each and every one of us decides tonight that if we're going to spend time away from our families in this place, we're going to do it for a meaning: that we're going to serve the people of Ontario.

I'll tell you something we found out in spades in the last election: People are mad. They're mad quite justifiably. They don't understand, I don't think, why they're mad. All they know is that they're taxed to the hilt and they don't see any response from their local members as to what's happening with that money.

Mr Mammoliti: You made them mad, you and your leader.

Mr Callahan: I see. Well, I just had a response from one member that I would ignore, because if I repeated it I think he would probably be hastily de-elected.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Yorkview will come to order.

Mr Callahan: There should probably be a right of recall in this place, that if you're not doing your job—the United States has it. We should have a right to recall. If they don't like what you're doing, they should be able to recall you. I think you'll see that come. It may not come in my time, but it'll come, because I think people are tired of giving you a four-year term where you can do anything you like. I should say do anything you like and not do what you're supposed to do and totally disregard the people and expect to get away with it. You can't tell me any other job in this world where, if you don't do the work for your employer—and they are your employers, don't kid yourself, as a public servant—you have the right to be able to just snub your nose at them, go off on your holidays, take all your perks and do nothing. It's a very unusual job we have. So I think the right to recall is coming.

More important, when somebody stands up in this House 10 years from now and starts quoting from one of your speeches and you have to sit over there and cringe

because what was said you didn't believe in or you weren't convinced about, I tell you, I think it gets pretty tough. I'd like to be able to say when I leave this place, and I would hope many of you feel the same way, that when you leave this place, the minister of—what are you, Tourism? No, you're libraries or something, are you? She laughed. I guess it's not important that the record show that you didn't consider it serious.

But I have to tell you that this place is the most serious place—here's the Premier; welcome, Premier—the most important place I would like to be right now, but only if somebody has the guts to change the process. Not the way it's being changed now; that's going the wrong way. That's constricting the power. That's giving the power to even fewer people. That's something many of the people who come here from other countries who represent a large proportion of the people of our society would understand. They know what it's like to have their rights of speech denied. I'm sure the Jewish people understood that when the books were being destroyed and thrown on the fire before the Second World War. I'm sure people in other eastern European countries understood that.

Don't kid yourself. You may think this is not doing that, but you examine it, you look at it, you examine how it could be used. I'm not for one minute suggesting that the Premier here or your government will do it, but those rules are etched in stone and those rules cannot be changed as long as there is a continuation of majority government.

What if some government came in here and decided to be totally machiavellian? Let's say they looked at the rules and said: "Here are the powers we have. We can shut the place down. We can force through legislation of any type we want." I wouldn't be comfortable.

Hon Mr Philip: There is something called a Constitution.

Mr Callahan: The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology says, "There is the Constitution." You're quite right. In fact, in the Constitution we were so concerned about the question of freedom of speech that we enshrined it so that for time immemorial we will be given the right to speak.

But the interesting thing about it—it's interesting you raise it—is that while we gave those rights to people out in Ontario and Canada, we as legislators are about to diminish and take away the rights we have, and oddly enough, the rules of the Legislature are not subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While we considered as a society that it was incumbent and important to give people certain basic rights—freedom of speech, freedom of religion and so on—we are in fact here in this chamber—and not even with the will of the Legislature. It's being forced on us by a House leader who brought them in without any consultation. He wants us to pass them and he's going to get them through because he's got the numbers.

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Does that say to me, if I'm out on the street, that the average citizen of Ontario has greater rights in speaking out than I do as a member of the Legislature? That's a really frightening thought. Yet he could have, very cooperatively, put it to a committee and it would have been no problem.

As we have Mr B. Rae, the Premier, in our midst, I thought I would refer to a comment made by him before he was Premier. Is that you? I don't think that's you, is it? Yes, it is. He said, "First of all, I want to say to the Premier"—I think that was the former Premier, my predecessor in Brampton—

Hon Bob Rae (Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs): It was George Drew.

Mr Callahan: Oh, was that who it was? You're not that old, Bob.

"First of all, I want to say to the Premier that as Leader of the Opposition I do not approve of or condone the use of closure by this government to get its legislation through. I want him to know that."

Do you wonder that people out there begin to get really chagrined about us and wonder whether we're really saying it like it is? Why do you think you get a 20% turnout at provincial elections and probably about 15% at municipal elections? They're fed up with us. You get comments like that, you get the current Premier—delightful guy, nice guy—saying: "First of all, I want to say to the Premier that as Leader of the Opposition, I do not approve of or condone"—this is like talking to your kids—"the use of closure by this government to get its legislation through. I want him to know that." What about people out there? They're in front of their sets going: "Jeez, how can he say that over here and do something over there? Are we to believe what people say when they get over there in the smell of the limousine dust? Do they lose it, or what?" It's understandable why people are just so fed up with politicians. They've had it.

I've just got to read something here from the House leader, Mr Cooke, because I thought his was even more interesting. This is a member's statement. I guess he couldn't get a question on that day. He said, "I think it's important to look at a couple of the issues that have led us to the point where the government has brought in unilateral changes to our rules to make this place an undemocratic institution in Ontario." Was "undemocratic" said by the House leader? My God, that's incredible. Where is he? How could he say that? That's absolutely incredible.

I'm just looking for some choice ones here that spell it out. Mr Cooke, the House leader, was referring to Erskine May and he quoted from page 408.

Mr Bradley: Who does he play for?

Mr Callahan: I think he's first baseman for the undemocratic party.

He said, "I would like to refer very briefly to Erskine May and quote from page 408: 'In many sessions in order to secure the passage of particularly important and controversial legislation, governments have been confronted with the choice, unless special powers are taken, of cutting down their normal program to an undesirable extent, or of prolonging the sittings of Parliament, or else of acknowledging the impotence of the majority in the House in the face of the resistance of the minority. In such circumstances resort is had...to the most drastic method of curtailing debate known to procedure, namely, the setting of a date by which a committee must report, or the allocation of a specified number of days to the various stages of a bill

and of limited amounts of time to particular portions of a bill. Orders made under this procedure are known as "allocation of time" orders—even he doesn't talk about it as closure; people are afraid of that C-word; they don't want to talk about it as the C-word—and colloquially as "guillotine" motions.'" Cut off the head. "They may be regarded as the extreme limit to which procedure goes in affirming the rights of the majority at the expense of the minorities of the House, and it cannot be denied that they are capable of being used in such a way as to upset the balance, generally so carefully preserved, between the claims of business and the rights of debate. But the harshness of this procedure is to some extent mitigated either by consultations between the party leaders or in the Business Committee—which in our case is the House leaders' panel—in order to establish the greatest possible measure of agreement as to the most satisfactory disposal of the time available.'" That's called consensus, which we haven't had here and which we were told this afternoon would not take place again.

"In this particular circumstance, this argument in Erskine May is very relevant in that all the sections of this bill on the second reading debate, the public hearings and the debate of the report coming from the standing committee on general government, were dealt with by consensus and by discussion in the House leaders' panel. Two days after we get into committee of the whole House, the government says, 'Well, we have dealt with this by consensus in the past.' At 6 o'clock—they do not even give us advance notice; no discussion at all on the House leaders' panel—they bring in this closure motion."

Doesn't that sound familiar? That sounds a bit like what the House leader did; sort of, "Five o'clock? Closure," at 10 to 6 on Thursday. He talks about this. This was the House leader who was referring to this, so I suspect that's where he got the idea to do it.

"To sum up, I believe this motion is out of order." Then Mr Cooke goes on to say: "The Speaker must protect the integrity of the rules and the integrity of this institution, and the Speaker clearly must protect the rights of the minority and the rights of free debate in this place. This bill has been handled by consensus until now and the importance of this bill and the fact that there are 62 amendments to be dealt with in the committee of the whole means that the solution the government has introduced is unworkable and is unfair to the public at large and certainly to the opposition parties to have their positions put forward."

That is the House leader, the man who's coming in to try to stifle debate, to put the muzzle on the Legislature. How can he say those things? How can the people of Windsor-Riverside ever have any confidence in David Cooke again in any future election if, on the one hand, he says one thing and then when he's over there he says another thing? Surely, David, let's get this place unpoisoned, get back to consulting with the House leaders of the official opposition and the third party. Put your pride behind you. Don't let your pride prevent you from doing that and let's get on with the orders and business of the day. That is the important aspect of this whole thing.

Then there is Mr Cooke again. That's actually under the old standing orders, so it wouldn't be—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Brampton South, please be seated. There is a point of order.

Mr Bradley: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think it is important that when the member for Brampton South is making reference to Mr Cooke he define clearly which Mr Cooke he is talking about. There have been other Cookes who have served in this House over the years, including the former member for Kitchener, that I can recall. There may have been, I imagine, in years gone by, members by the name of Mr Cooke and I think it is important that when he mention Mr Cooke by name that he ensures it is the appropriate Mr Cooke.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Brampton South has the floor.

Mr Callahan: The House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside, has really become the focus of this evening's discussion because of the unilateral way he's approached it. I hope that clarifies it for the member for St Catharines, that that's exactly whom I'm talking about.

I was here. I had the privilege to be here when the member for Welland-Thorold did his stint, his filibuster, as it was called. I guess the reason I was impressed by it was that if anybody has ever seen Mr Smith Goes to Washington, where he filibusters—but the member for Welland-Thorold was allowed to go home. He was allowed to take adjournments. You remember Jimmy Stewart; he almost collapsed in his place.

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The reason I raise that, even though it may be Hollywoodish and dramatic, is that I think that movie demonstrated the obligation that each and every one of us has in terms of looking after our constituents. I'm sure that any of you who has seen that knows he was fighting for a boys' camp in a valley that was about to be flooded by a couple of avaricious senators who didn't want him to speak, and he stood up and continued to speak.

Well, the member for Welland-Thorold pursued an avenue that his predecessor had felt very important. Now the member for Welland-Thorold is literally silenced.

Interjection: No, no.

Mr Callahan: Oh, yeah, I think he is. I really think these rules should be dedicated to the memory of Peter Kormos, the member for Welland-Thorold, because I think when history is written, it will be that these rules had to be brought in at this particular time and under these particular circumstances.

Mr Bradley: He will vote against them.

Mr Callahan: No, I don't think he will. I think he still has those illusions that the picture of him in the Toronto Sun will melt, fade off into the sunset, and he'll have an opportunity to go back to driving the limo and ordering people around. If I were the member for Welland-Thorold sitting over there, and also my good friend Mel Swart—who is a good friend, and you ask him about that; he is an excellent guy—

Interjections.

Mr Callahan: Flattery will get you no place. I chaired the justice committee that went around this province for Mel to have the opportunity to put forward his views on Sunday shopping, and that man was committed to the hilt. I have great admiration for him. I think he is a man of great integrity. He is in fact the symbol of the type of person you people should try to emulate. He was a man who came to this Legislature and did not allow the powers that be to pull him around by the nose. Mel said what he meant and he did it for the people in his community.

You'd better take a page out of that, Peter, because the people of Welland-Thorold revere Mel, and well they should. When I see that former member of Welland-Thorold at the New Democratic Party convention on the weekend haranguing the Premier for his turnabout on this very important issue to Mel, and the insurance issue, and now when I see that this bill is being brought forward unilaterally by the House leader without any consultation whatsoever, it is going to muzzle his successor.

Mel obviously wanted a member to follow him who would fight the good fight and complete the work he had worked so hard and feverishly for. That man gave a good period of his life to issues that were very important to him. I can remember him standing up in here as a consumer critic with bottles of this or bottles of that. That man worked tirelessly, and I think we should all take a page out of his book, because he represents, and he understood, the responsibility to be a member of the Legislature and the trust and the opportunity to help the people in his constituency.

I'll tell you, when I read the newspaper and read about the proceedings of the New Democratic Party convention, I felt great sympathy for Mel, a man who had devoted his life to this place, to find that on two issues that were extremely important, you just brushed him aside.

Mr Owens: That's what you guys did to Stuart Smith.

Mr Callahan: Stuart who? No, no; sorry about that.

You just brush them aside. The message I'm trying to get across is, first of all, that you take someone like Mel Swart and make him your image of what you should be as a legislator, and I mean that totally. I'm speaking most importantly to the member for Welland-Thorold. You are not going to have the opportunities you would have liked to fulfil the obligation to the legal community, to the people who are injured in automobile accidents, to the people whose rights were being suspended by our legislation, according to you. You're not going to be able to fulfil your promise. So in fact what has happened is that you're going to go away, you're going to go down in history as having let down not just Mel and the people of Welland-Thorold, but all those people who during that 16-hour or 16-day debate—I can't remember, it was so long—

Mr Bradley: Seventeen days.

Mr Callahan: Was it 17 days? You will have let down all of those people who sat on the edge of their seats and said: "Go, Peter. Go, Peter. Go get them." Suddenly you're becoming a follower, Peter. The member for Welland-Thorold is becoming a follower, which I find really reprehensible, Mr Speaker. He really demonstrated to me, or at least

I thought he did, that he was a fighter, a gunslinger, that he was going to look after the cause of the common man.

Mr Bradley: And woman.

Mr Callahan: And woman. What does he do? He settles into his comfortable seat where there's no heavy lifting, there's no working in the rain, the hours aren't that bad, the pay's pretty good, the pension's excellent, and he reads.

I really find that sad, because it's not too often that you see fighters come through here, people who are prepared to fight for their constituents. To see them just relax in the comfortable pew thereafter makes one feel as if the whole place, everybody, gets that way. That's unfortunate. When they turn the lights out in this place at night—and tonight they'll turn them out about midnight—there are people around here who will labour tirelessly to prepare this place for us, because they consider it a privilege. This is the Legislature of Ontario, and we treat the place like it's school, like you come here and you put in your time and that's it. I really find that sad.

All joking aside, we have, I think, good camaraderie here. I certainly like every person in the House. I'm not sure they all like me. But I find it really disconcerting that we can be debating something as important as this, Mr Speaker, and actually have people—I'm not sure they understand what it is to have their rights curtailed. Maybe they think the government is all-wise—

Mr Owens: Never been a union member, obviously.

Mr Callahan: Well, there really is an analogy there. The rank and file of unions depend upon their leaders to negotiate good collective arrangements for them and to ensure their rights are adequately protected.

There was a certain OPSEU arrangement negotiated where the correctional officers, by way of an arbitrator's award, were given the right to negotiate their salaries separate and apart from OPSEU. I hate to tell you, but during the recent 1% or whatever it was given to OPSEU, these correctional officers were in fact required to participate in this collective agreement. If that's democracy, I tell you, it makes for very poor democracy. I think people out there who come from undemocratic countries would understand that these people got screwed, so don't talk to me about that.

But there is a similarity. People seem to think the rank and file of unions are people who support the New Democratic Party. I have large numbers of union people who are good friends and who support me. But they get the same story perhaps. They get the same story you're getting from your leader: "I know what's right. Trust me. I will look after your interests." From David Cooke: "I'll look after your interests. These rules are good for us because they're going to create a more streamlined, swifter way of our getting our measures through." Well, I'll tell you, I hope you never decide that your political philosophy is to be changed, because you may find that now you're being ushered into doing things that later on you might regret.

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I want to say a few things about the suggestions—and I don't think these are realistic. I don't think the member for Windsor-Riverside is really serious about the amendments for the Monday and Tuesday night sittings, because we

could read through the transcripts of previous legislatures where they sat at night. I can tell you one thing: that after supper this place becomes non-productive, or pretty well non-productive.

Hon Mr Philip: It's unproductive tonight.

Mr Callahan: The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology says it's unproductive tonight. I always recognize constructive criticism. Then I analyse from whom it came and I decide it wasn't constructive.

They're trying to shorten the spring session. Why would we do that? That's really interesting. That amazes me. Here we are, talking about the House leader bringing in these rules to streamline things so that you people can get your agenda through, and he's suggesting a shorter spring session. I would think that if you're interested in producing for the people who elected you, you'd be enlarging the amount of time we sit here rather than trying to shorten it. The only thing I can figure from that is that the House leader must consider that there's nothing productive done in here. That probably is something said about all governments.

They don't want question period. When question period's not in place, even though it is theatrical and you don't get any answers from the ministers necessarily—and I don't say all of them; some of them give you answers—while they have to face question period, they're exposed to public view. The public gets a chance to hear their answers, or non-answers. If you can shorten the time that question period's available for the opposition and the third party to perform a legitimate task on behalf of their constituents, then in fact you've done something. You've gained sort of a nudge up.

I think the people out there in the province understand that. In fact, I think the common perception on the part of people in Ontario—maybe it's a fair one—is that when the House adjourns, everybody goes on holidays. I'm sure we've all had people say to us, "You're on holidays now, are you?" I say, "No. We're out in constituency work." That's the impression they get because this place is the centre of the universe.

And well it should be. This is the opportunity of a lifetime. This is the place where you can speak out on behalf of everything. Even in government, you can bring to the attention of the Premier and to the ministers how you were walking down Yonge Street or along Avenue Road and there were people lying there in the street in the middle of winter with a box over them, or you went past the food banks and the people were lined up down the street or you heard about a mother who had four children and couldn't find a place for her kids to live.

What's the government doing here? We're talking about casinos. What else? Sunday shopping. All these important things, while people are out there freezing to death. That strikes me as very strange. I don't know how people can deal with that. I don't know how you can feel that you're accomplishing anything as a member of the Legislature if you don't raise those issues.

Sometimes the fastest road to cabinet, if that's where you want to go, is to prickle the government. If you look

through the history books in this place, the people who got into cabinet were the people who asked the most pressing and telling questions of their own ministers and their own Premier to the point where he said: "Hey, put that gal or that guy in cabinet. We want to get rid of them." If that's the name of the game, if you want to get into cabinet, that's the way to get in: Really put it to them. Don't let them try to cut back and limit your rules. Don't let them cut back and limit the whole purpose of why we're all here.

If we cannot speak and we cannot argue and we cannot debate and we cannot look through legislation, there's no purpose in this place. Turn out the lights. Let's all go home. Save the people of the province hundreds of thousands of dollars. In fact, that's what's happening; it's happening in spades with these two items in the rules. There's the question of closure, which is really telling your kids to shut up, and having nobody there to be able to say, "Hey, Dad or Mom, maybe you should let them speak because they may have something to say about that legislation." It's telling the people of Ontario: "We're not interested in your views. We're not interested in what your representatives have to say about the legislation. We're just going to ramrod it right through."

When you wake up tomorrow and your Legislature has been silenced and your member has been silenced, you'll find that the province of Ontario will have changed just that little bit much more, that will make it more uncomfortable for us to live in this province. If you feel good about that and if you feel that's a service to your constituents, I'll tell you something: You're wrong. You're dead wrong. I think anybody who cares about you, your spouse or whatever would tell you that. They'd ask you when you come home: "Why are you so stressed?" "I'm stressed because I have to follow the party line. I have to do things that bother me. I have to do things in terms of cutting off my rights to speak." I think that when people come home from their jobs, particularly a job of this responsibility, they should be able to come home and feel good about it, feel as though they've put in a good day, that they didn't muzzle the rights of the minority.

You people, as I think all members of the Legislature do, have serious concerns about people who are in the minority. We try to look after them. That's part of the Canadian way. It's what makes Canadians so great. But you look over here and what you see is Liberals and Conservatives. What you should be doing is looking over here and seeing the constituents from Brampton South, the constituents from Brant-Haldimand, the constituents from Newmarket. That's what you should be looking at.

If you could do that, you would get rid of the partisan nature of why we are arguing so strenuously that these rules not be changed unilaterally, that they be changed not in the ways that they're being changed but to the benefit of the people of Brampton and the benefit of the people of other members of the opposition parties who want to truly represent their constituents. Then you wouldn't look over here and think: "Jeez, he's a Liberal. I'm not going to accept anything he says." Or: "He's a Conservative." That's not the way it operates. And it shouldn't operate that way.

Mr Mammoliti: Oh, oh.

Mr Callahan: The member for Yorkview seems to find this rather amusing. I trust that when you go home tonight you'll be able to report to your family that you put in a good day's work, that you sat there and didn't listen to one word.

Mr Mammoliti: We want to work. That's why we're doing this.

Mr Callahan: You don't want to work, you want to muzzle this place. That's what you want to do.

Mr Mammoliti: My family understands—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I'd ask the member for Yorkview to please restrain himself. I'd also like to say to the member for Brampton South that he's been doing a lot of talking across the House rather than through the Chair; so if you could, please address the Chair.

Mr Callahan: I apologize, Mr Speaker. One of the frustrations of being in this place is that there are very significant issues from time to time in this place—there should be, more often than not—where you just find they are treated with such levity. You feel like you're just sort of spitting in the wind and they don't understand. That's the most frustrating part of it, the fact that they consider this to be just some sort of joke: "We've got the power so we're going to put in rules that will set us back to the Middle Ages."

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We should go back to some of the debates in English history, what people have given up to have the right to speak, freedom of speech, the right to be able to debate, the right to be able to gather together and decide things for the people in this province. We treat them like they're just something that we can give away holus-bolus and that we have the right to do that. We don't have the right to do that. We have the right to be the guardians of that free speech and to ensure that this free speech is used productively.

Yes, I agree with you that there's a lot of funny stuff that goes on in here that shouldn't go on. But more often than not, if you examine why it goes on, it's triggered in the main because of the inability of the other side to be a little flexible, to recognize that maybe by bringing in a piece of legislation, you're destroying that balance that has made Ontario so great, because it happens to be your political philosophy. I don't think anybody has total truth; none of our parties do.

When a party introduces a piece of legislation, it's normally not done by you backbenchers. It's done by some of the spin doctors and the others who think they're sexy political issues. Nobody has a monopoly on truth. That's supposedly why our committee system works. That's what we're supposed to be doing: going out and listening to the people of Ontario and finding out what they think about the legislation and trying to get a feeling of whether we've got this balance, whether we're maintaining this balance. But I can tell you, and I'm sure you've experienced it in the short time you've been here, that you go out on these trips and it comes back to the committee hearing and they go through clause-by-clause and there's not one single amendment introduced.

That the people of Ontario don't care or don't understand—I doubt that. Hopefully, they will try to learn more about this place because it's their tax dollars that are being spent for us to go out and "communicate" with them and find out their wishes, because that's who we represent. And we don't. The measures that are being brought in by the House leader are the equivalent of what I always said about minimum sentences. When a particular crime carried a minimum sentence, where if you were convicted you got seven days or six years or whatever, I used to say to my client and to the crown attorney, "We could all stay home." The judge could stay home, the crown attorney could stay home and I could stay home, because whether we were there or not, that person was going to get the minimum sentence.

That's kind of like the closure that's being suggested by the House leader, the member for Windsor-Riverside. He's saying to us that closure can be enacted on a motion by the government of the day, and there's no safeguard. I think it's important that this be considered. Perhaps for the benefit of the people out there who may be watching at this late hour, although I'm sure they're probably watching the Blue Jays game, you will let me just have a second, Mr Speaker.

As you know, the present orders that we have and that are to be changed read as follows: "A motion for closure, which may be moved without notice, until it is decided shall preclude all amendment of the main question, and shall be in the following words: 'That this question be now put.'" Here is the democratic safeguard: "Unless it appears to the Speaker that such motion is an abuse of the standing orders of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority"—that's the opposition in a majority government—"the question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. If a motion for closure is resolved in the affirmative, the original question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate."

In plain, good old English, what that means is that if at some point during the debate the government of the day decides—and it has that already. It has that power now. It's like the "notwithstanding" provisions of the Charter of Rights. It just takes the political gumption to do it. If you believe what you're doing is right, you have the political will and the political guts to use section 33 of the charter, the "notwithstanding" provision, or, in this case, you have the guts to use closure. Nobody ever calls it "closure"; they always call it "time allocation," but in fact what it is is closure.

The real hook here, the real democratic saving grace, is your intervention, Mr Speaker, and they're taking that away with their amendment. They're saying they can move a motion of closure without any intervention or without any protection of the rights of the minority. I say that's wrong and I think the majority of the people of Ontario would say that's wrong, that that is not proper, it's not fair and it is something that cannot be done. They're waiting for the press to echo the clarion cry that what's happening is that Ontario is being taken over by a totalitarian move to change that rule.

If they're prepared to accept that, if the phones of the government members don't ring off the hook about that,

then what we have done is exactly what happened in eastern Europe before the Second World War as Hitler was mustering his troops and taking a little bit here, a little bit there. England sent its member over to consult with Hitler and he came back and he said, "I don't see anything wrong." Do we have to hear the tanks rolling in the street before we realize that our rights have been usurped?

Mr Gordon Mills (Durham East): Give us a break. Sit down. What have you got in the water over there?

Mr Callahan: Fine. I'll tell you something. It's great—

Mr Mammoliti: I used to like you, Bob.

Mr Callahan: I'm going to lose a lot of sleep over that, believe me.

It's great to sit there on the government benches and say, "You're getting to the point of hyperbole." Maybe I am, the tanks in the streets and so on. But if you take an honest look at what's happening, you know the purpose of this legislation is to muzzle the member for Welland-Thorold and a couple other mavericks you've got there who are going to speak out on these things. That's what they're doing. What you do is, when you go to the government caucus, you say to the members, "Look, guys and gals"—I don't know whether I used the right word; "guys and ladies" or whatever; I don't want to get myself into that issue.

Mr Bradley: Men and women.

Mr Callahan: Men and women. You go to your caucus and probably David Cooke—I can see him standing there at the front of caucus, this huge caucus room you've got, saying, "If we bring in these changes, it means each and every one of you will get a chance to speak because the debates are being limited to 30-minute debates." Well, I want to see whether that happens. I don't think it will, because when you're over there on the government side, they tell you when to speak, when to mop your brow, when to go to the washroom, when to whatever.

Mr Bradley: That didn't happen with you.

Hon Mr Philip: You can go now, Bob.

Mr Callahan: You all do it, and do you know why you do it? Because you have that expectation that you may have the car and the plane and whatever else if you're good, if you're a good little boy, or a good little man or woman. If you're not, you're in trouble.

I suggest to you a better remedy. You want a better remedy? I'm going to suggest a better remedy to the people on the government side. Rather than aspire to your own limo, borrow a limo from the minister and take it away for a weekend. They're gas guzzlers. They don't drive that well. The brakes are probably gone on them too. So that's the better way. But don't let them con you. Seriously, don't let them con you into thinking this is going to free you people. It won't. You won't be freed until you're over here in opposition, and the reason is that they have to control you. It's very important that they control you people, because if they don't—you're all sensitive, nice people, and you're going to listen and you're going to decide that maybe what's being said over here is not all that untrue. Something's going to strike a chord, believe me. I know

when I was over there, opposition members would say the same thing. I'll tell you, it struck a chord with me and I started to search whether I was doing what I should be doing. It was at times like that I spoke out. But I haven't seen any of that over there.

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I must admire you, you have a well-controlled caucus. There have yet to be any defectors, but I'll tell you, if there's something worth fighting for it's this. This is the Waterloo. This is where you take your stand. No more retreating, because every piece of legislation that's forced through this Legislature as a result of our rights being diminished in looking at it and talking about it, you men and women will be responsible for; and if it's not perfect and it's not good stuff, you've just ruined your community, maybe, or you've taken a little shade off your community.

Think about it. The member for Niagara Falls, she is going to have a casino in her riding.

Interjections: We don't know that.

Mr Kormos: The party hasn't approved it.

Mr Callahan: Oh, come on. It's done by order in council. Don't kid yourself.

What will casinos do? Casinos will attract prostitutes, carpet-baggers, loan sharks, crime. Suddenly, Niagara Falls, which is a lovely area, may very well become the Taj Mahal in a war zone. That's what Atlantic City became. It's just a delight, it really is. It's a delightful place to visit, but bring your police dog and a gun with you. Toronto's going to get two of them. They're really lucky. They are so lucky it's incredible; it's just unbelievable.

There is one thing I find interesting about this. I went to the annual meeting of the Big Sisters in my riding. They're a delightful group, and they do a lot of good work. I looked at their financial statement, and they made \$147,000. They have to fund-raise 70% of their money. They made \$147,000 on those tickets you rip off, Nevada tickets. The minute this government opens the first casino with handles you can pull, Nevada tickets are history. The Big Sisters are then going to have to look for \$147,000 to support their very worthy cause. Are they going to run a casino? Is that the plan? Or are they going to be beholden to the government in terms of getting their money and they'll have to come crawling to you to get it?

You may not think so now, but this is what's going to happen when you as a member of the government say, "Hey, I didn't know that was going to happen; I want to speak out against it." You'll say, "I want to get up and speak," and somebody will say to you: "Well, sorry, the rules don't allow you to. We're invoking closure, and you're not going to get a chance to speak at all on this issue." Then you'll say, "Well, maybe the member for Brampton South wasn't all that wrong."

I don't even begin to say that I have all the answers, but I've certainly tried to think about them and I would hope to God that we could get some of you people thinking about them too, because you're really playing with a loaded pistol and you could find that these changes will not just affect us, they will affect you.

I don't think that, in truth, all of you people over there are totally enamoured with every piece of legislative policy that's brought forward by the government. I know the member for Welland-Thorold isn't. His predecessor wasn't. So how do you fight that? Do you go back to your riding and say, "Well, look, I belong to the government; I had to vote that way"? If the people in your riding were smart, what they'd say to you is, "Well, tell you what, why don't you stay at home and we won't be paying your salary? Why don't you just disappear, because you're not representing me?"

I think people are going to say that. People expect accountability. They expect to know that you are representing them effectively, and they expect you to fight for every rule down here that will give you the right to do that. Every time you sit mute or ignore what's being said in this place and you don't move towards massive change of this legislative chamber, you in fact create that situation.

I say to the Premier, I read somewhere where you're going to make massive changes in the whole process here. If this is the start of what you're suggesting, I'd urge you to go back to the drawing board, with all due respect, because these are not changes that are going to democratize this place, they are in fact pulling the strings of power closer together and eliminating any possibility of dissent or any possibility of any person of the province of Ontario being effectively represented by the members they elect and put their trust in. I suggest to you that you think hard about that.

The fact that we're sitting here till midnight means we're all giving a great deal more of our lives and we're away from our families. I think we have to be looking after the fact that we're protecting not just the people of Ontario we represent, but our families. If you think that's just hohum, and "Please go away, member for Brampton South," which there will probably be a great round of applause about, and "You don't know what you're talking about," then I guess I've wasted my time here tonight trying to give you some idea of the experience I've had in the seven or eight years I've been here and the fact that I feel very strongly about the issue of being able to speak.

If you think about it, a Parliament has nothing but speech. If you can't express yourself in this Parliament, we may as well just close the place down and disappear. Why do you think they give us the right to say things in this place that may be untrue or that—

Mrs Irene Mathysen (Middlesex): So you can speak, Bob.

Mr Callahan: Irene says—no, no, no. Why do you think they give you the right to libel somebody in here without being sued? Why do you think they give you the right not to be arrested while the House is sitting? They give you all sorts of privileges, and the reason they give you those privileges is simply because if you didn't have them, if there couldn't be a free exchange of ideas in this House, then the benefit to the people you're representing in society would be diminished. In fact, that's what the government House leader is doing, and he's not even doing it in consensus with the House leaders.

The best thing he could do—you might suggest this to him; it would stop the debate and get on with the things of the day, and it has been suggested—would be to suggest that this be referred to a committee such as the Legislative Assembly committee. That's how we've done it in the past. Let all of the members have some say in this and perhaps listen to people from other jurisdictions who can tell you whether what you're being sold is a good bill of goods or a bad one. Would you buy something from a salesman at the door without knowing who he or she was and without knowing something about the product? That's what you're buying here. You're buying it because the member for Windsor-Riverside says it's a great product. I'd check to see if it's got a 10-year warranty, because if it doesn't, you're in trouble.

It's interesting that the House leader would have done that, because somewhere in among the stuff I've got here, he said to the press that they would in fact do this. Remember his famous press release which caused a bit of consternation because he hadn't bothered to talk to anybody about it? I must find it.

Oh, yes, here it is. At page 3 of his press release it says, "Mr Cooke said he would welcome the opposition's insight and input on the motion he tabled last Thursday." I think this came out on the Friday, so it would be difficult for the opposition to have had any input because they didn't know about it being on the table. "I would ask the opposition for its fair consideration of these proposals. I believe that together we can make the House work better." Mr Cooke said that since becoming House leader almost a year ago, he has made early and repeated attempts to establish an all-party committee to reform the House rules." I'm told that's balderdash. "After almost a year, the opposition House leaders have only just nominated their representatives. The committee has not yet met. We have an opportunity now to make the Legislature work for the people of Ontario and for this and future governments," he said." What a bunch of malarkey. He gives that gobbledygook to the press, and we know he doesn't want to do anything like that.

Surely an all-party committee of the Legislature would be the fair and honest and legitimate way to deal with this and to get the views of everybody and to ensure that the final product was one we could all be proud of and that we could all work in this House with.

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Has anybody ever, in your lifetime, been satisfied with a single opinion? When we go to our eye doctor, even, or our doctor or our dentist or our shoemaker or whatever, we always try to get a second opinion. Nobody has truth in totality. Mr Cooke doesn't have it, with all due respect to him. I have to ask myself, is this unseemly rush to push through these rules to ensure that the member for Welland-Thorold doesn't get to speak on the insurance bill or on the Sunday shopping legislation or on the Ontario labour relations amendments? Is that the reason? Do you think that's what it's being done for? I really think that has to be at the root of it, because otherwise there would be no reason to push so vehemently to have these matters dealt with.

If the Ontario labour relations amendments are that good, they can stand the scrutiny of this place. They can stand the scrutiny of not having to close off debate. They can stand being looked at by the people of this province. Do you not think the people of this province deserve that minuscule amount of participation? Do you think their representatives should not have an opportunity to be able to address those concerns and to make suggestions that might improve the lot of workers in this province?

With all due respect to the Minister of Labour, as much as I respect him in that he's always believed in that and always been an advocate, he doesn't necessarily have all the answers either. Let's face it, we're all driven by our own political philosophies. The Minister of Labour has always been a very strong advocate of injured workers and so on, and I respect him for that. But do you think he can look at these amendments and direct their implementation in an unbiased way that will eliminate the possibility of our screwing up the very intricate and important balance of labour and management in this province? I think he'd be the first one, if he thought about it and perhaps didn't want to get this through—and I understand why he wants to get it through. It's been a labour of his life. But if he looked at it objectively and perhaps considered some of the statements that might be made by his colleagues and by members of the public, and even workers—I think the member for Parry Sound read out a couple of letters from people in the union who said they didn't think this legislation, as presently phrased, was all it was cracked up to be.

Mr Bill Murdoch (Grey): We've got four more letters.

Mr Callahan: I understand we've got four more letters; the third party has come in saying that. I think the workers deserve to have the opportunity to have full and proper representation by their particular MPPs, and what the House leader is doing by ramming through these amendments without proper consultation is depriving people of their democratic rights. That's certainly going to result in an imperfect working of this place. It's not going to speed up things; it's not going to make them any better. It's going to make things more difficult.

In fact, what you're doing is lighting the barbecue for your seats when you come back here, because everything you do will have a boomerang effect. You'll be subject to the same rules, by who knows what government. So I would strongly suggest that you give strong consideration to it and not be moved by the promises and the perks and the benefits you get. It's a great thing to represent people, as I'm sure you've all found out at this stage, being a couple of years in the House. When you go out to events in your riding, they tell you it's an honour to have you there. My feeling and my response to them is usually, "It's an honour to be invited." You usually get the privileged seats if you go to an event. I really find that interesting, because we get privileged seats and people who are volunteers, who get paid nothing but who are honestly pursuing the efforts of volunteers in a very responsible and honest way, wind up in the back row. Yet we as those so-called politicians who are the honourable members and the privileged few get those front seats.

I always feel a little embarrassed about that, because if we are not doing our job down here, if we're going to let these rules slide through without the scrutiny of the public and without the scrutiny of all the members of this Legislature, then we've done a job that doesn't even merit us the back seat. We should perhaps not be going or at least trying to avoid looking at our constituents.

As I said when I started, to me, this is one of the most important debates this Legislature will participate in while I'm here, which may not be very long, because quite frankly I've found that the degree of participation and concern by members is sometimes very limited. They prefer to hold private conversations while we're attempting to discuss one of the most important issues. There doesn't seem to be very much interest over there. I guess it's just a foregone conclusion that the Berlin Wall is going to be built, that democracy is going to suffer, that the flame of democracy is going to flicker a little smaller. It's going to perhaps go out. That'll all be done while these vigilant members are here having their own conversations, considering that it's more important to discuss other items than to listen to the debate.

Mr Robert Chiarelli (Ottawa West): On a point of order, Mr Speaker: For a considerable period of time the opposition was rather attentive and orderly, and for the last several minutes there have been many conversations and the member has been unable to make his point.

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry. It's not a point of order; however, it's a point of respect for those people who are participating in the debate.

Mr Mills: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I'm a very considerate person, but the member says I'm not paying attention. I can't pay attention to such drivel hour after hour. It's just driving me nuts.

The Acting Speaker: That is an opinion. It's not a point of order at all. The honourable member for Brampton South.

Mr Callahan: I think that member's predecessor would be spinning in whatever job he's in now. I find that really interesting, Gord, because I always thought you were a person who was sensitive to the needs of your community. It becomes quite apparent that you're not, because you've missed the entire content of what I've been trying to say. You've either turned off the mike or whatever or you've decided that you're so intent on becoming a minister of the crown that you're prepared to adopt everything they say holus-bolus. I hope the people of your riding association and the people of your community understand that, because the member who preceded you represented his community to the hilt, and you've certainly demeaned it by making that comment.

The Acting Speaker: I want the honourable member for Brampton South to address the Chair. It may be much less inflammatory.

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Mr Callahan: I'm sorry, Mr Speaker, but there are many times in this House when issues allow for levity, when perhaps there are things that may be a matter of unconcern to the members because it's a bill in which they

don't have any particular interest. But I'm suggesting that tonight is a watershed. Tonight we are debating something that will change this province and change this Legislature dramatically, and if that message has fallen on deaf ears of the members of the government, I hope it's because they weren't listening or, in the alternative, I hope it's because they're not capable of understanding.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. On a point of order, the honourable member for York East.

Mr Malkowski: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I don't find acceptable the term "falling on deaf ears." I find that somewhat pejorative and would ask him to withdraw that, please.

Mr Callahan: What did I say?

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order; however, the honourable member for Brampton South may want to rephrase.

Mr Callahan: If I have offended the member for York East, I apologize. I have watched him tonight and he is one of the few members of the House, not just on this occasion but on other occasions, who listens and watches intently and follows the proceedings. He should perhaps spread that around his colleagues and it might be much better participation. So I apologize for using that phraseology. It was certainly not meant in any inappropriate way.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you very much.

Mr Callahan: But the issue tonight is one that comes before a Legislature perhaps once in a session or once in a politician's time here. It is a question of whether we are going to have the right to represent adequately the members of our constituency or are going to be denied that right by a majority government of whatever political stripe, whereby you as Speaker will not be able to intervene and ensure that the rights of the minority are protected.

I suggest that's a very important issue. That's one that comes down through history to us. There is not one institution you can examine in history that has not suffered dramatically as a result of a reduction in the rights of the minority. We've seen it in numerous jurisdictions around this world. Minority rights, once trammelled, once their rights are denied, the majority becomes a little more courageous in terms of trammelling them even more, and the next thing you know, the minority rights have been snuffed out. I suggest to you that that's the issue being debated on this floor tonight. It's a debate that's not drivel. It's a debate that's important. It's a debate that should be paid attention to by every member of this Legislature, and if for a minute they're not vigilant, they are allowing those rights to slip away. I would hope that anyone speaking on this issue tonight will take it in that vein and will not consider it to be one of the more esoteric items we debate in this place from time to time and consider that it's something you can just ignore. It's not.

We have opened the door to a precedent-setting situation here. We have allowed the House leader of a majority government—one that only had 37% of the electoral votes, by the way—to tell the minority, the other members of the Legislature who equally represent large factions of this community—I represent 90,000 people. Am I to go back

home and tell them: "I'm sorry. You no longer have the same rights you had before this motion was passed, because this is what happened to you. My rights to speak on your behalf are now limited so much more"? What will happen the next time? Once a precedent is set like that and the government has the power to do that, the next step is something more dramatic.

I suggest to you that it shows the extreme arrogance of a government that will perform in that way, that will attempt to do it unilaterally. The member for Windsor-Riverside has been around this House long enough to know that this place operates on the basis of consensus. He has also been quoted by the member for Parry Sound as having made extreme comments about the question of closure. He doesn't like it, he thinks it's draconian, and here he is being the architect of it himself. Not alone—he's playing through. He's playing a single game. He's not even allowing the other members to participate.

So I suggest to you that what we are debating tonight is not just the usual stuff we debate, which will rise or fall on the basis of a word or the crossing of a "t" or the dotting of an "i." What we're discussing tonight is important in terms of what it says and what it doesn't say, and it's equally important in terms of the precedent it sets for what a majority government can do with its majority. If we allow this thing to become just one of the ho-hum debates in this place, then I'll tell you something: We have let our constituents down totally. I mean, lots of times we fail to do things or we do them perhaps not to the totality they should be done, and there are no dire effects. This is going to create for the people of this province less representation by members who happen not to be members of the government.

I can remember times when the suggestion was made that unless you had a government member in your riding, you weren't going to get the same benefits you would if you had a government member in your riding. I remember early on in this government's mandate where some statements were made to that effect. I'll tell you something. What that says to me is that I, having been elected by the constituents of my riding, do not have the same rights and privileges as a government member because the government members can now push through anything they like. They can go to the minister and say, "Hey, I like this idea." Maybe the minister will pick it up and do it. Because I've been denied my rights to debate with the protection by you, the Speaker, of my minority rights, I as an opposition member have been reduced to a less effective member for the people of my riding. I think that's wrong. I think it's totally wrong.

I also said to the backbenchers over there that they are being denied their full rights. They may think this is going to open up a whole avenue of opportunities for them. I'd suggest it's exactly the opposite. They're shutting the doors on it. They're giving the central powers—we saw Mr Agnew. He was around here earlier. I guess he's back there doing something. They're giving greater power to them to draw on the strings. When you look at it, you see strings being drawn in all over the place.

Casinos are drawn into the strings. Bring in casinos so you can make the charities come begging to you on hands

and knees to get the money they used to earn in their own way by doing bingos and so on. Draw on the string by upping the tariffs on probate fees and on registration fees by 100%. Draw on the strings by upping this, upping that. Really what it is doing is tightening the noose around the Ontario citizen, and this is one more example of it, trying to make the members of the opposition less effective and give them less opportunity to adequately and fully represent their constituents.

I've spoken a long time because I feel passionate about the fact that this is one issue in this House, the first one I've seen since I was elected seven or eight years ago, which I feel is so important that every member of this House should be debating it and that it should go out to a legislative committee. For God's sake, if the government House leader could understand that and didn't have his own agenda of trying to get it done before he pushes all this legislation through, it would be done.

If that were the case, it wouldn't be necessary for members of the opposition to stand up here and try to plead with the government that it respect democracy, that it ensure that the traditions of thousands of years of gaining these rights and the right to speak freely are not lost to a government which feels it has a right to rule by divine will.

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The Acting Chair: Thank you. Further debate? The honourable member for Carleton.

Interjection.

Mr Norman W. Sterling (Carleton): One of the members says I look tired. I think after my speech, starting this evening, many members of this Legislature are going to be tired.

First of all, I want to say how ridiculous this debate really is. You know, I've been through a fair number of these—

Mr David Winninger (London South): Are you going to tell us your war stories?

Mr Sterling: I'm going to tell you some war stories. I think you're going to get a few of those. Now, in 1951—no, no, I'm not going back that far.

Mr Winninger: I was barely born then.

Mr Sterling: Well, I was barely born then either.

Mr Winninger: That's not what I heard.

Mr Chiarelli: Hurry up and get warmed up.

Mr Sterling: There's lots of time to warm up. There are days and days of debate that can go on. Why should we hurry? What's going on in the Legislature has nothing to do with how these rules are going to be resolved.

Hon Floyd Laughren (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister of Economics): You look tired, Norm.

Mr Eves: He looks rested to me.

Hon Mr Laughren: You don't know what he did over the supper hour.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I'm having a very difficult time in starting my debate because of all the interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I want to remind all members that it is all members' privilege to speak in this Legislature. Interjections are out of order. I want to go

back to the honourable member for Carleton; he does have the floor.

Mr Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

On Friday last I was so concerned with the lack of understanding, in my view, of the media and perhaps the people of Ontario with regard to the debate that we are forced into by the government House leader. I say "forced" because the government House leader puts us in no position but to filibuster, to talk and to talk and to talk on this motion, perhaps until Ontario freezes over.

I wrote to the editor of many of our daily papers while the Treasurer was basking in the sunshine of the Riviera. Was that where you were?

Hon Mr Laughren: No, no.

Mr Sterling: Oh, it was Germany. They don't have a Riviera in Germany.

I wrote to all the editors, and I think I should read this letter because it summarizes, to my way of thinking, what we're faced with here:

"The people of Ontario must understand that the present fight over changes to rules governing the Legislature is essential in order to prevent Bob Rae...becoming a virtual dictator. In our 125-year history, the rules"—which are our constitution—"have never been changed without negotiation with other interested political parties. Parliament is intended to be a balance between the right of government to govern and the opposition to oppose. In a majority Parliament, the only tool for the opposition to seek compromises is to delay.

"Mr Rae has decided that he should be able to unilaterally"—on his own—"dictate how long a debate will take place on any future legislation. For instance, he can decide on his controversial labour law changes that he will only tolerate an hour of debate on second reading, perhaps one day of public hearings and one hour of debate on third and final reading. He will probably choose to be more generous than that, but that is the power he is seeking.

"If Mr Rae gets his way"—and he will, eventually—"he will virtually eliminate the usefulness of opposition members in the Legislature and committees, save for question period. Over the past six years in opposition I have been successful in forcing the government of the day to accept some amendments to their legislation. My only tool was to delay or threaten delay. What sense is there for me to bother to debate if I have no means to make them listen?

"Mr Rae says that he is following Mr Mulroney's lead in bringing time allocation motions now used in the House of Commons, but conveniently, he forgets about other balancing factors, such as the ability of the Senate to stall.

"Rules governing our Legislature are boring stuff for the public. I understand why the public believe that we are being childish in using every stalling technique available to us. However, we are fighting for the life of our democratic institution and must continue to do so until the government agrees to sit down and find a reasonable compromise. We will continue to be ready to negotiate new rules which will make our Parliament more efficient.

"However, if the public are concerned about arrogant governments that don't listen, just wait until they see the

result of this huge power grab by Bob Rae. Those same people who are today saying opposition parties are not acting responsibly will probably be asking at a later date why the opposition or why the public was not given the right to be heard.

"The government's agenda has been poorly thought out and full of inaccuracies, causing long delays. A failure by Bob Rae to tolerate those who disagree with him, or want to correct his errors and mismanagement, should not result in an attack by him which will destroy the delicate balance of power required in our provincial Parliament."

That summarizes the basic argument that I will be putting forward tonight and in the days to come.

Hon Mr Laughren: Carried, carried.

Mr Sterling: If the member for Nickel Belt, who is interjecting not from his seat, which I think is contrary to the rules of the House—it's a funny rule. There are a lot of funny rules to the Legislature, but I believe parties can get together and can resolve those differences and can negotiate changes which will be for the good of Parliament.

You know what's very odd about this particular change of the rules which has been thrust upon the Legislature by Bob Rae and Dave Cooke alone? The public should understand that Bob Rae or Dave Cooke didn't come and negotiate with us before he put this down on the table. I find it odd that Mr Rae was in the House tonight. Last February or March when we were talking about the Constitution of Canada, I can remember Bob Rae saying: "Brian Mulroney, our Prime Minister, I don't want you to put down a unilateral deal to Quebec. Each and every province and the territories of Canada should be consulted on the deal that is presented to the province of Quebec so the province of Quebec will deal with our Constitution then and come into our Constitution." He insisted that Brian Mulroney, the leader of our federal government, consult with the other partners in our institutions across Canada.

I think there's a very strong similarity to the process we are going under here today and in our Legislature, because the standing rules of the Legislature are essentially our Constitution. The standing rules tell us who has what power at what moment. So while Bob Rae lectures Brian Mulroney, he comes back to the Legislature and does what Brian Mulroney didn't do. Who has more honour in all of this, Brian Mulroney or Bob Rae? Bob Rae is acting as an arrogant leader in putting forward these changes without consultation with other members of the Legislature who are represented in the opposition benches.

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Mr Winninger: You wouldn't show up at the meetings.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I hear an interjection from across the way that we wouldn't show up at the meetings. The three designated hitters, if you want to call them that, or the negotiators for the three political parties, of which I was one, were asked by the member for Oxford, who has been a member of this Legislature for the sum total of one year and one half, to meet with him to negotiate changes to the rules. I think we were asked on three different occasions and we were not able to strike a common date for a period of three weeks. Now, does that give the Premier of

Ontario and the government House leader the right to impose their dictatorial will on all members of this Legislature? It certainly doesn't.

When we talk about the kinds of negotiation and consultation which went on in the past, I have in front of me a report from the standing committee on procedural affairs regarding agencies, boards and commissions. This, I say to the member for Nickel Belt, who's so interested in this debate, was issued on November 18, 1985.

Mr Bradley: That's back when the monarchy meant something in Ontario.

Mr Sterling: To the member for St Catharines, I say it's back when a government, the Progressive Conservative government, had respect for this institution and would not dare do what you're doing, Bob Rae. We wouldn't have dared for a minute to come in with draconian changes to the rules which give an absolute dictatorial power to the Premier of the day.

In 1985, the procedural affairs committee produced a report that is quite thick and has a number of suggestions which I will be referring to over the next days in terms of the different matters that were of concern to the members then.

The chairman of that committee, incidentally, was Michael Breaugh, then the member for Oshawa and now a member of the federal House. Mr Breaugh, myself and Mr Reycraft, the then member for Middlesex, negotiated over a four-year period, before the Liberals dropped the hat, if you want to call it that, in terms of bringing forward a motion in front of this House. So, for those New Democrats who claim that three weeks of negotiation were excessive, I only say that the comparison to former days relates to years, not weeks.

I remember too, Mr Speaker, as you do, because you came into this Legislature in the late part of 1983, I believe—I remember it because I was out in the riding with the honourable member for S-D-G & East Grenville—that during that period of time, the whip then, the member for Mississauga North, Mr Gregory, had a terrible time with our caucus from day to day, because he felt we were having to eat crow day after day and the opposition was stalling any of the legislation we brought forward.

I can remember great debates in caucus: "Let's do something. Let's put it to these guys. Let's change the rules of the House. Let's do all of these wonderful, nefarious things." But Tom Wells was the government House leader at that time, and I can remember him saying: "Now, just a minute, before you get too arrogant, before you want too much control of this Legislature, you must remember that ultimately this Legislature will only work if there's cooperation among the various parties." Mr Wells prevailed and there were no changes to the standing orders during that time. During the time I was here, there were very few changes to the standing orders. There were, I think, some minor changes made in 1986, but after that time there were very few changes to the standing orders.

Mr Bradley: Do you remember the calendar question back in 1983?

Mr Sterling: No, I don't.

Hon Mr Rae: It was 1982.

Mr Bradley: In 1982, the now Premier asked a question on the calendar where he was out by several thousands of dollars. I'd forgotten that myself.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Carleton has the floor. I know interjections at times are interesting but the honourable member for Carleton does have the floor.

Mr Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. During the time when we debated these various changes to the rules that ultimately came about in October 1989, the negotiating committee, the three members who were appointed—Mr Reycraft, myself and Mr Breaugh—met first in 1986 and 1987, and we came together with a package. We presented that to the government and to the other parties. It was acceptable to the two opposition parties but it was not acceptable to the government of the day.

Let me talk about a few of the things that were in that initial report, because I think the report was the springboard for some very progressive changes to the standing orders which we now enjoy. I think too, oddly enough, that during the period of time of the last negotiations, I raised the possibility of limiting a member's opportunity to speak. When I was in opposition I suggested that perhaps there was some merit to talking about some limitation on a member's opportunity to speak. Of course, the Liberals were in government at the time and that looked somewhat attractive to a governing party. But guess which party refused to discuss any limitation on the time a person could speak in this Legislature?

Mr Bradley: The NDP, I'll bet.

Mr Sterling: It was the NDP. Isn't it amazing that—
Interjection.

Mr Sterling: I'm sorry, Mr Speaker. When you were running—I didn't remember everything. Bob Eaton, the member for Middlesex before Mr Reycraft, was a Speaker.

But isn't it amazing how things change in this place when people cross from one side of the floor to the other? There was within the contents of the report the suggestion that the Speaker should be elected by this Parliament. One good thing about negotiations, when you're talking about the rules, is that there is a tradeoff. In terms of members saying, "Let's elect the Speaker," the tradeoff to that particular matter was that the government of the day didn't want the ability of a member to stand in this place and challenge the Speaker.

Can you remember, Mr Speaker, the last time that trick was used in this Legislature?

Mr Bradley: The NDP.

Mr Sterling: I think it was a fellow who was sitting up where the new member for Brant-Haldimand is sitting right now. His name was Peter Kormos; that was it.

Mr Robert W. Runciman (Leeds-Grenville): Where is he now?

Mr Sterling: I don't know where Mr Kormos is now.

At any rate, Mr Speaker, for those members who weren't here before, it was possible in this place to force the Speaker into making a ruling, and you would immediately stand up and challenge the Speaker and then you

would get the bells ringing and the bells would ring and ring and ring. That's what precipitated the last change of rules.

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That was engineered by none other than Dave Cooke, the then opposition House leader, and Bob Rae, then the Leader of the Opposition, and that was over the Joan Smith affair. Joan Smith, as you remember, was the Solicitor General and there was a concern over her involvement in a police matter. But the bells rang for about five or six days and Joan Smith resigned as a result of those bells ringing. That was a direct result of the member for Welland-Thorold, Mr Kormos, standing up and challenging the Speaker, as instructed by the member for Windsor-Riverside, Dave Cooke, and I'm sure Bob Rae knew what the strategy was at that time. Those things don't just happen. The bells rang for five or six days and Joan Smith resigned.

We came back in here and Sean Conway, the member for Renfrew North, who was then the government House leader, introduced his motion to change the rules. There wasn't any consultation other than the three or four years that we had been consulting together. Of course, when he put down his motion—I think it was motion 5, as I remember, because we talked about it—everything broke loose in this Legislature. Boy, was there righteous indignation in this Legislature. I can remember Dave Cooke standing up and saying, "Some would call this sleazy." I guess he didn't call it sleazy, but he said, "Some would call this a sleazy move." That was Dave Cooke's response to it—now the government House leader.

The one thing the member for Renfrew North, the government House leader at that time, didn't do was call the motion for debate. He let it sit there. I think he was justified in putting something forward because something had to be put down as to what the government's position actually was and what it really wanted in terms of changing the rules and making this place somewhat more efficient.

Over the months of June and July of 1989, negotiations went on in earnest. As a result of those negotiations, the changes to the standing orders were approved, I believe in late July. And I believe that on October 15, 1989, when we came back that year, the new standing orders were in place.

The important part of all of that is that there was consultation. The government House leader, who had 94 seats at that time, not the 74 seats the present government has, felt he couldn't use that power in order to overwhelm the opposition, notwithstanding that he could have done what the government House leader has done today.

I also want to talk a little bit about the recent past. I just want to go back about a week and a half ago to when we were sitting here on Thursday night. I think the government House leader really started this whole confrontation when he moved to extend the hours at a quarter to six on Thursday night. A lot of the members had gone back to their constituencies and those who were left here were left to make certain the government didn't take unfair advantage of the chance they took at that point in time. Under that standing order, any member who holds the floor can ask to extend the hours, and there have to be 12 members to block it at that time. At that point, late in the day on Thursday afternoon, there weren't 12 opposition members here,

somewhat like the government not having 20 members here the other day when quorum was called last Thursday.

Mr Bradley: Out of how many?

Mr Sterling: Twenty out of 74, which I guess is roughly the same proportion as 12 out of whatever number of opposition there might be. But when Mr Cooke came in and did that, he really threw up the red flag, because he said: "The gloves are off, fellas. The gloves are off, ladies. We're going to have a donnybrook."

Interjections.

Hon Mr Pouliot: Mr Speaker—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable Minister of Transportation on a point of—

Mr Jim Wilson (Simcoe West): A point of foolishness. Sit down.

The Acting Speaker: On a point of what?

Hon Mr Pouliot: Merely a point of rhetoric, a sense of—

The Acting Speaker: I'm sorry, the member does not have a point.

Hon Mr Pouliot: It's important, Mr Speaker, that it be noted—

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: I apologize if I have offended anyone, Mr Speaker. The term I used is very common in my own constituency and your constituency and is the acceptable term in some parts of Ontario still. That's the unfortunate way it is.

I want to talk about the election of the Speaker, because I think that exemplifies a question that came to mind when this Premier took over Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The whole idea of the election of the Speaker was to have a person from this Legislature, ideally elected freely by members of the Legislature in a free vote and a secret vote, and that my party leader, the leader of the Liberal opposition, and the leader of the government, Mr Rae, would not try to influence that vote unduly. So what did Bob Rae do on the day he was sworn in, October 1, 1990? When asked, "What about Mr Warner, who has experience in this Legislature?" he said, "He's going to be Speaker."

Mr Winner: We thought you were good too, though.

Mr Sterling: You didn't think I was good enough. That's the problem.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: I didn't see the count.

That was my concern; that although the Premier had sat in this Legislature for some eight or nine years and had sat in the federal Parliament, did he really understand the delicate balance, the feeling and the intention of the standing orders under which we were governing this Parliament?

Incidentally, Mr Speaker, I think they elected the best man with regard to the Speaker, in hindsight. That, together with this move, this unmitigated show of arrogance to change the rules in such a draconian way as to be able to virtually control this place, is amazing.

2150

I started to allude to it earlier, but we have seen the bringing forth of a new political party in Canada, not at the provincial level but at the federal level, the Reform Party, as we all know it. Part of the attraction of the Reform Party has been that its leader, Mr Manning, has talked about reforms to the Legislature, that individual members should have more power, that members on committees should have some real power, that there should be free votes in this Legislature.

Do you think that giving the government—one man, essentially—the right to dictate to all of us exactly how long we have to talk on any particular issue or subject matter, how long the public have to give their input, is an increase with regard to the powers that individual members have in this Legislature?

This move is such a retrogressive step with regard to the individual's importance in this Legislature that it's unbelievable. It's unbelievable that while we talk about the power at the centre, the power that the executive, the power that the cabinet has over each and every one of us in the Legislature—

Hon Mr Laughren: No. That was the old days.

Mr Sterling: I know the member for Nickel Belt doesn't think he has enough power. But this particular move by the leader of the government, Mr Rae, to be able to say on auto insurance, for instance, something that is near and dear to the hearts of the New Democratic Party, or was—

Mr Stockwell: There's nothing near and dear to the hearts of the New Democratic Party, nothing.

Mr Harnick: Except Kormos.

Mr Sterling: Peter Kormos; okay.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, they're trying to break me up. The member for Nickel Belt's trying to get to me.

Can you imagine the Liberals bringing in their auto insurance plan or their Sunday shopping bill and saying, "You're going to have two weeks to debate"—

Mr Cameron Jackson (Burlington South): George, aren't you driving around your riding tonight, working on that mileage? Who's driving your truck tonight?

Interjection.

Mr Jackson: He's had one trip too many to Canadian Tire this week.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I'm not sure these night sittings are a good idea.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: I want to get on with the substance of the debate, as I'm sure all members of the Legislature are interested in that.

During the time that we were negotiating the calendar—it was actually an invention of our leader, Mr Harris, who suggested to me that although we hadn't talked about a calendar in the procedural affairs report in 1985, and it had not been discussed until the negotiations of the rules went on in earnest in June and July of 1989, we brought forward the idea of putting down a calendar.

When we were negotiating that, I can remember the concern by the New Democratic Party that the calendar had to include more days than this Legislature would sit than it had in the past. In 1984, the Legislature sat for 96 days; in 1985, it sat for 53 days; 1986, 111 days; 1987, 67 days; 1988, 91 days; and if the calendar had been followed in 1989 and 1990 it would have been about 110 days in each of those years. Now what do we have? We have the New Democratic Party, which was arguing not three years ago that it wanted more days in the Legislature, now telling us in a motion that's been put forward that it wants fewer days, and the Treasurer says it's more efficient.

I agree. We could all be more efficient if in fact the government put forward legislation which was well-thought-out, which had very few mistakes in it and which had some direction. This idea of the House leader coming out and saying, "Last Thursday, we wasted \$290,000 because we didn't sit"—

Mr Allan K. McLean (Simcoe East): They didn't have a quorum.

Mr Sterling: I want to say to the government members: Do you remember last year how many days we talked about Sunday shopping? What was your answer to the Sunday shopping issue? You brought in that law where you defined "tourism." If it were a big store, they would have to go to the municipal council, but if they were little stores, they could all go to the council. We debated this for days in this Legislature: \$290,000 a day, I guess it was at that time, I don't know how many days.

Mr Michael D. Harris (Nipissing): I couldn't believe it.

Mr Sterling: I couldn't believe it either. And then it went out to committee and they had weeks and weeks of hearings in committee. I assume that was \$290,000 a day too. We must have wasted, I don't know, \$4 million, \$5 million or \$6 million on the old Sunday shopping law. That was so important last summer. It was so important that this government went ahead with it. It was very high on its agenda. It was higher than the 121 pieces of legislation or something that they are talking about now. What's happened? Less than one year later it said: "Well, we've reconsidered. The old law doesn't work; we're going to scrap it."

After \$5 million or \$6 million of our legislative time, it scrapped the law, just like that. The Premier stands up and says—

Mr Harris: Snip, snap, just like that.

Mr Sterling: Snip, snap, \$5 million, just like that. I don't know how the government House leader comes in here, when we're having a major fight over the most important changes to our standing orders, our constitution, and says we're wasting \$290,000 a day in this place.

I guess the general assumption out there is that progress is marked by passage of legislation in this place. I'm not sure that assumption is always correct. It wasn't correct last year anyway, when we were dealing with the Sunday shopping law, because a year later it's been scrapped. To say we're progressing because we're passing legislation isn't necessarily true.

I'm sure the member for Welland-Thorold doesn't agree that the present Sunday shopping law, which we're

going to debate in this Legislature, is progressive and that it has any advantage to the public. I am now sitting in committee; I sat on the standing committee on administration of justice this afternoon. We're dealing with some very important legislation, which I believe all opposition parties have been constructive in trying to find the right answer to, and that's dealing with consent to treatment, primarily dealing with people who are not capable of making their own decisions, and how best to advise those people and how best to deal with health professionals who have to carry out those treatments.

As we get deeper and deeper into that legislation, I'm not sure we're doing anybody a favour by changing the existing legislation, because there seems to be more and more questions coming up about the new law and how it will impact on the various people who help vulnerable adults and vulnerable children. So I'm not certain about the assumption by the public that the more legislation we pass, day after day, leads to a better Ontario. I'm sure most of them would prefer that we didn't pass the Treasurer's tax bills, as onerous as they have been. I know the public are not in favour of those. I know they're not in favour of a great deal of the legislation.

At this point I'd like to adjourn the debate. I move to adjourn the debate, Mr Speaker.

2232

The House divided on Mr Sterling's motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 26; nays 61.

Mr Sterling: I moved adjournment of the debate because—

The Speaker (Hon David Warner): Not again.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: No, I'm not "moving" it. I'm telling you that I "moved" it—

Interjection: The Speaker's a little jumpy.

Mr Sterling: I had a "d" on the end of "move," sir. I know I'm mischievous from time to time, but I wanted to explain that I moved adjournment of the debate because we do not understand, on the opposition side, why we're here this evening debating this motion. Because if things would unfold as they normally do and have over the last 125 years, we would be sitting here tonight debating the legislative program of the government of the day. Instead, we find ourselves debating a motion which the government House leader, the government itself, has admitted has no more relevance because we are in the stages of negotiating the changes to that motion perhaps this very hour. So we are engaged in a fruitless exercise. Mr Speaker, I don't like wasting the time of the Legislature.

Hon Mr Laughren: Hear, hear. Keep a straight face, Norm.

Mr Sterling: I thought the Speaker was supposed to keep a straight face. I thought he was not supposed to be partisan. Mr Speaker, I believe you're not partisan.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: Bob Rae has foisted this ridiculous debate on the people of Ontario. Bob Rae and the House leader

for the government party have insisted, "My way or no way." That's what the arrogance of this government is saying to the members of the opposition.

I think other members, particularly backbenchers of the government side, should know that there are other issues on the table which they have not heard of yet. I want to talk about a few of those, because we believe in our party that all members of the Legislature should have enhanced powers, should be able to do more in this Legislature, do things that are constructive and that everything shouldn't be left up to the one man over here to tell us exactly what he is about.

Mr Conway: Tell us about Bill Davis and schools, Normie.

Mr Sterling: I don't know what relevance that has tonight, I say to the member for Renfrew North.

One of the suggestions we have put forward is that committees of the Legislature be given the opportunity to introduce bills in this Legislature through their chairmen. This would give real meaning to members of committees who identify through their hearings that legislative change is needed. This was actually tried in the last Parliament, Mr Speaker, and you may remember that the former member for Waterloo North, Mr Epp, as the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, introduced a bill on behalf of the committee members, who unanimously agreed that there should be a change in our Legislative Assembly Act. It was a very minor matter with regard to what a government's agenda might be. The amendment dealt with the serving of papers upon a member of the Legislature and clarified for members of the public, sheriffs and bailiffs what they must do in order to serve a member who is being sued by an Ontario citizen.

The point is that Mr Epp brought forward a bill. He introduced it as a private member's bill, because that's the only tool we have in this Legislature, and he used his private member's hour in order to debate that bill. That was one of the few private member's bills which received second reading, received third reading and became law.

The second example of this particular tool being used was when I was chairing the committee on agencies, boards and commissions. At that point in time, we were reviewing the Ontario Food Terminal Act. The committee on agencies, boards and commissions reviewed the Food Terminal Act and decided to write another report.

I had been on that same committee some 10 years prior to its considering that particular food terminal, which is an agency of the Ontario government. The committee was making the very same recommendations that a committee had made 10 years prior to 1989 or 1990. So I said to the committee: "Look, why don't we do something different here? Instead of just submitting a report and bringing it back to the Legislature, why don't I, as your committee chairman, introduce a bill in the Legislature and we will try to talk to the government House leader"—at that point in time I think it was Mr Conway—"to call the bill and to have second and third readings?"

2240

Not only did the members of the committee all agree to it, but the minister involved, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr Ramsay at that time, also agreed to the amendment, which we all thought was useful. At an appropriate time, the government House leader at that time called the bill for second reading and called the bill for third reading, and the bill passed in a matter of 10, 15 or 20 minutes, because cooperation was achieved with all members of different parties. It was, I think, the first private member's bill which I have ever carried in this Legislature.

Now what we are suggesting to the government House leader is that in addition to having government bills, private members' bills and private bills, there'll also be a committee bill that a committee Chairman can bring forward with a majority of his committee agreeing to the legislation. The committee Chairman would come in to the Legislature and introduce that bill as committee Chairman. The government House leader would be obligated to call it for second reading only and would have to give it a certain amount of time for debate.

Normally when you bring forward a bill which is reached by consensus within a committee, there isn't a great deal of debate in the Legislature, because everybody has already talked about it. They are not earth-shattering issues, normally. They are small issues, but they are important to a segment of the population of Ontario. So what it would give, in my view, is real meaning to members of committees in the Legislature. In the agencies, boards and commissions committee, for instance, if you are talking about a particular corporation or commission and you see a need to change its act, but the government cannot get it high enough on its priority list because, well, it's a minor matter or a matter of medium significance in the political realm, then it would give it an opportunity to clear away that particular matter and do that correction and get it done in this Legislature. It would give a constructive role to those members of this Legislature who are not cabinet ministers.

The only obligation the government would have would be to call that for second reading in this Legislature, and therefore it would not be necessary to call it for third reading. So if the government House leader, in a minority Parliament in particular, disagreed with the majority of the committee which had forced this process, then he would not have to call it for third reading.

I believe there is a real need for members of the Legislature who are not cabinet ministers to have a constructive role, and I don't think they can be expected or that a minister can expect them to take over the very high-profile issues or issues which are of huge significance. But I'm talking about small or medium-sized issues, if you want to call them that, in a political sense, which I believe would be a very progressive step for this Legislature.

In some ways that would give advantages to this Legislature, to members, which our American counterparts enjoy in the United States, whereby each and every individual member of their legislature has the opportunity to introduce legislation and have some real hope that he has been part and parcel of bringing a piece of legislation forward

and having it passed into law. That's one suggestion that the member—

Hon Bud Wildman (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs): You want more regulations.

Mr Sterling: We don't want more regulations. Some of the regulations which we have now don't serve us well, and some of them should be changed, and in some cases it might be the recommendation of a committee to delete a section of an act or to delete an act or to change a particular commission.

Anyway, I know it's a minor matter to cabinet ministers and I know it's a minor matter in terms of what the public might do, but one of the frustrations members in the back bench have is that they are always told what they're going to do or what the agenda is.

My experience with reports from committees is that governments, I don't think intentionally, take the report and put it on the shelf. They get the reports, and one of the rules which is deficient in this Legislature as well is that there is no obligation on the government House leader to ever call a debate on a report which is brought in here by a committee. So when members feel strongly that there is a law which they could change, which only they have had time to look at—because, quite frankly, a lot of the matters you deal with in committee from time to time tend to be of a minor nature. In most cases, I'm sure members of the committees who represent the government side would go and consult with the minister and say: "Look, do you really mind? The committee, in dealing with this matter, has heard evidence and thinks the law should be changed."

This would be a cooperative kind of legislation to bring forward. Even though we might want to put in the rules that in bringing this bill forward, the committee Chairman would have the right to one sessional date of debate within perhaps 30 days of the introduction of that bill, I'm sure that in most cases a debate on a minor bill like this would take 10 or 15 minutes, as was the case in the two examples which I cited before.

That is one suggestion which I feel is very progressive. I'm not heartened by the response I'm getting from the government House leader. I don't think it's a great gamble for any government and, quite frankly, if this government doesn't do it and we are in a position to govern the next time, if we are fortunate like that, I would very much press my own party to bring in that kind of amendment to give not only members of the opposition a constructive role, but also those who sit in the back benches of the government.

Mr Bradley: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I think the member is straying off the topic of this resolution when he starts to lead into—and I can tell he's coming to this—the fact that the New Democratic Party is now going to accept donations from corporations. I don't think that's part of this debate.

The Speaker: I don't believe it's a point of order, but it certainly is of some interest to some people. The member for Carleton.

Mr Sterling: I do not believe it was all corporations; only small ones up to 500 employees. I was trying in this debate to be as non-partisan as I possibly could be.

Mr Noble Villeneuve (S-D-G & East Grenville): It's not easy.

Mr Sterling: It's not easy because this debate has been focused on a partisan debate because of the way it's been introduced. It's been introduced by one side and there haven't been any serious negotiations going on in good faith. These people over here talk about bargaining in good faith all of the time.

2250

Interjection.

Mr Sterling: Yes, these people, the government. They understand bargaining in good faith probably better than I do because of their closer association with the union movement, having gone through a fight many times, joining with unions involved in differences. I understand that bargaining in good faith is an extremely important principle that was part of the labour proposal, which I think has been dropped at this point in time, some more definitions to that. But bargaining in good faith means both sides are sitting down and saying: "Okay, let's negotiate new rules. Let's deal." You want this kind of power or you want this advantage, and then the other side would say, "We want some changes as well."

One of the changes we would like as well that we have put on the table is that up until this budget the government House leader has always called for budget debate. Because there were some disputes in this Legislature around the time when the government House leader introduced his budget, the government House leader said, "You aren't going to get any debate on the budget." So no debate on the budget. That was done unilaterally because he used the rules. That may be fair game.

Mr Conway: But they were at least allowed to read a budget.

Mr Sterling: They were allowed to read a budget, not like the former member for Brant-Haldimand who, when he came in here, was prevented from reading his budget and had to—

Mr Stockwell: Who prevented him?

Mr Sterling: Actually, it was the opposition of the day, the New Democratic Party, I believe. At any rate, we would like to see enshrined in the rules at least some limited time for budget debate. Even the government backbenchers might understand that when you're talking about one of the major documents, or the major document, in terms of the government's outlook for the coming year, a major fiscal document, the opposition should be given some opportunity to debate that, be it three or four days. I'm not certain what the exact time should be, but we would like to see that included in the standing orders.

There is another standing order we'd like to see amended. There was a matter which arose a couple of weeks ago when the government House leader tabled a motion in this Legislature and we did not become aware of it until late into Monday of the next week. That was be-

cause there was a significant amount of mixup on that late Thursday night, and the next day the orders for the day were not printed until late in the day and there were no pages around to deliver them to members' offices. Therefore the opposition found out about the government's intentions in his motion through the newspaper.

We don't believe that leads to good relationships within this Legislature. We don't believe that is the way the opposition parties should find out about the government's motions, and therefore we are asking the government to change the standing orders so that when the Clerk receives a motion, he notifies the other parties immediately of that motion once he has found it in order. I think that's a reasonable request to make and I think your government House leader may be agreeing to that particular suggestion.

Hon Mr Wildman: Very flexible.

Mr Sterling: Very flexible. Another suggestion we have put forward to the government House leader is with regard to supplementary questions by government backbenchers who are asking questions. We believe, Mr Speaker, that you should be given the discretion to disallow a supplementary question from a government backbencher—and if they wanted to argue that it should be disallowed from opposition as well, other than leaders' questions, I might be willing to talk about that—if the question were more suitably addressed in a ministerial statement. Therefore, if a member stands up in the Legislature, particularly from the government back bench and says, "Mr Minister, what is your program with regard to moose hunting licences," when the minister has 20 minutes each day in order to make statements, we don't understand why the time of question period should be used up for that.

I think government backbench members should know that it is only in this government that government backbenchers have taken up essentially every opportunity to ask a question when the rotation came to them. It is our feeling on this side that it's the right of every member to ask a question, particularly of the ministers, but we find it a little grating from time to time when those questions are even less than soft. They are questions which should really be covered off in the ministerial statements. We see it also as a ploy for a minister to avoid standing up and making a statement and giving the opposition the opportunity to respond to that statement.

Those are four suggestions that we have put forward to the government side and there are some other suggestions as well with regard to some of the rule changes which the government has put forward through the government House leader.

The first change which the government has suggested is that the House would sit three fewer weeks than under the current calendar. We don't necessarily like that because we don't get the opportunity in opposition to ask the government questions if we're not sitting here, so you can see, from the opposition standpoint that's a downer for us. But we recognize that there's some validity to that kind of a request, because in fact what seems to happen now is that there is precious little business done in this place, and the

committees tend to get stacked up if the Legislature is cranking at its normal rate. While we find it strange that the government, when they were in opposition, was very much in favour of having longer sitting days, more time in the Legislature, we can see some reasons for that kind of change.

Another change they put forward is that the House would sit for two weeks in December instead of three. We don't really care that much about that particular change.

The government put forward an idea of having Monday or Tuesday evenings as sittings. I know the former member for Sudbury East would really agree with this with all his heart, because—

Mr Conway: To say nothing of Ross McClellan. Remember Ross on this subject? His best speeches: "anti-family."

Mr Sterling: At any rate, the reason we oppose this kind of amendment is that the whole idea of a calendar is so that each member in this Legislature can have some idea as to what he is going to do in the next week or the coming weeks or whatever it is. If the government wants to change its plans for Monday or Tuesday evening of any given week of the Legislature, you or I may have a constituency function or a meeting etc that we must go to. Those kinds of arrangements are made months in advance and we just don't feel that there should be an option to the government either to have a sitting on Monday or Tuesday evenings on fairly short notice or not.

2300

If they want to argue for evening sittings, fine and dandy. Let's argue about whether we want to have sittings on Monday nights. Some of the out-of-town members, particularly the member for Simcoe East, likes to sit at nights. He enjoyed 1981 to 1985 and sitting here in the evenings. I know the member for S-D-G & East Grenville is a long way from home and he doesn't mind sitting nights; that doesn't bother him.

If we need more legislative time, let's start sitting at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, if that's where we want to give up the time, because we always negotiate the time. The total hours are always part of the negotiations that go on. That's what happened the last time, when we moved the starting time from 2 o'clock back up to 1:30 pm. It will give us more time during the lunch hour to do business with people, to meet with people and to do all those kinds of things that we must do as politicians, and we can designate either Monday or Tuesday night that we're going to sit on.

I'm not that concerned about it. It doesn't bother me to sit from 8 pm to 10:30 pm if we think that would be more fruitful time. But let's not add a rule to the Legislature which in fact puts the option and then we don't know whether we're going to sit or we're not going to sit. The whole idea, as I said before with regard to a calendar, is to have some idea as to what's going to happen in our lives over a longer period of time so that we can plan, as we must, months in advance of the various meetings with the individuals whom we must meet with.

The next item that the government talked about was limiting members to 30-minute speeches in this House.

Normally I don't have a problem with some kind of limitation on speakers. In fact, I want to tell the members of the House that when we went through the last negotiations on the standing orders, I suggested that we put into the standing orders that a member should be allowed to speak for 20 minutes, save and except that he could waive the rule at the beginning of a speech and he could say, "Mr Speaker, I'm going to require more than 20 minutes this evening in order to express my views on such and such." At least it would have been a lead toward members starting to think about giving speeches in a 20-minute block of time. The Liberals, who were then the government, agreed to it. It's not the greatest restriction in the world, but it's a little bit of a restriction. We agreed, but the New Democratic Party said, "No way are we ever going to stop the right of an individual to speak on end in this Legislature if he feels strongly about a particular matter."

Mr Kormos: Right on.

Mr Sterling: The member for Welland-Thorold, who has just said "right on," was a prime example when he spoke in this Legislature for 17 hours.

We are trying, as I say, to be constructive. We can agree with some of the things the government House leader has put forward. We have to have the ability of at least the first, maybe the second speaker, of the critic having the opportunity to speak at length, and therefore a restriction of 90 minutes is unreasonable, in our view.

Mr Speaker, I think the government House leader wants some assurance that he is going to be able to get to orders of the day each and every day. We don't consider that an unreasonable expectation. Therefore, in countering the government House leader's suggestion that some restrictions should be put on the total routine proceedings, we have suggested to him that he limit the amount of time for introduction of bills to 20 minutes, as he does in petitions, so that the maximum time we spend in here on bills would be 20 minutes. Therefore, there would be some assurance that the government House leader would in fact get to orders of the day. He would get to orders of the day even if bills were introduced. The only thing that would prevent him from getting to orders of the day would be points of order.

Perhaps the most significant change government House leader has talked about today is the time allocation motion. That is called "time allocation" by the government but is always called "closure" by the opposition.

To my knowledge, there are only two parliaments in this country which have time allocation motions written into their standing orders. One is in British Columbia and one is in the House of Commons. As I understand the time allocation motion in the House of Commons, it has been used relatively rarely, on few occasions, I believe, and it is balanced as well by the fact that the Senate has the opportunity to stall a bill on which the government is refusing to budge or move. So they have, through their Senate, a second chamber of sober thought.

Time allocation motions are also used in the British Parliament, anywhere from two to seven times each year, I understand, but they have never been used by the

government until after the legislation has been in committee for a significant amount of time. So even though the majority governments in Britain have had time allocation motions, they have been very reluctant to utilize them, so I am told by the legislative research people here.

We are very, very much concerned about that. At present, if the government gets the floor, for instance, on this motion, they could say—listen carefully, because I don't want you to think I'm saying it—"Mr Speaker, I move to put the question." They could say that; I'm not saying that, okay?

That ends the debate; the motion is called and that just cuts the debate off. Mr Speaker, in our standing orders at present, you have been given the discretion either to allow the government to put that question or you can say that there hasn't been the opportunity for adequate debate. The government seeks to take away that discretion from you. Basically they want to be able to cut off debate even if the Liberal opposition has spoken for five minutes, for instance, on a bill. If we had spoken for five minutes, the government could then stand up and move the closure motion.

2310

We don't like that, as you can well imagine. We think that particular discretion has not been badly misused by you or previous speakers. When the government has moved closure, in most cases it has been granted that. We don't understand, quite frankly, why the government needs to take this discretion away from the Speaker.

One of the downfalls of the standing orders in my view is that the Speaker perhaps is not given enough discretion to run this place, so we have tried, like the people of Canada are trying in their Constitution, to nail everything down in writing. They're trying to figure out each and every kind of circumstance that can arise, and then they're trying either to tie the hands of the opposition or to gain more power in the government. So successive governments are now going through changing this standing order or that standing order to deal with whatever they view as the problem of the day in terms of getting their legislative agenda on or going down the road as they would like.

I mentioned before that one of the things I would like to see is giving you some discretion in terms of supplementary questions, even if at the very first it deals only with government members. They may not like that, but I think that question period as seen by the public is generally an opposition exercise. We don't want to limit government members from asking questions of the minister, but we think they're abusing it at this time. That's our opinion.

Interjections.

Mr Sterling: I can't force the members of the opposition to listen to this very important debate, but I think they should understand that the precedent that's being set by the present Premier and his House leader with regard to this change in rules doesn't live only for them. If another party should ever get over there—and it's going to happen as sure as I'm standing here that some other party is going to be elected there, be it the next election or two or three elections from now. But government members and backbenchers should understand that the next government is going to have the precedent of dealing with changes of

rules in this, I would say, unilateral and draconian manner that has never been known to this Legislature until this past week. They're going to give governments which want to ram legislation through here very extreme powers. All you will have to get is a leader of a party—and I don't think Mr Rae is this draconian—who wants to ram legislation through here at an unprecedented rate with no public debate, with no chance for public input. These rules, as they are proposed, will allow him to do that. They will be able to pass legislation here; they will be able to pass hundreds of bills every year.

Mr Conway: If I had had these rules for the school bill, I could've really had some fun.

Mr Sterling: Yes, we could've had some fun.

Mr Speaker, you know your counterpart in the House of Commons has a significant amount of discretion in dealing particularly with question period. For instance, when a member puts a question in the Legislature, the Speaker has the right to either allow or disallow the supplementary question. Quite frankly, I think our question period would move along a lot quicker if you were given that kind of discretion. I would think that members would have to get their questions off quicker, that ministers would have to respond in a more meaningful way than they do at the present time, and that every time a government member or an opposition member asked a question which was dragging on and on, you would be able, in a sense of fairness, to say, "Well, Mr MPP, you've taken more of the time than is reasonable for other members of the Legislature." I would really like to see some serious discussion with regard to that as well.

I don't mind debating in this Legislature, but I'm having a very difficult time concentrating on my notes, because all of the government members are talking with each other, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: The member for Carleton makes a valid point. There are a number of private conversations in the chamber which perhaps could better be held outside of the chamber to allow the member for Carleton to continue with his remarks.

Mr Sterling: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I understand that people want to talk with each other in the Legislature and I understand that some of the stuff may be repetitive and it is boring for people who don't understand the rules or don't understand what the balance of power in this Legislature is about. They don't understand the need to protect the institution before they protect their own self-interest. What is happening here is that we have a government which is not interested in protecting the parliamentary institution. They are interested in labour law and see as an end the change of the institution.

Mr Speaker, I don't care what piece of legislation this government or any future government brings to this Legislature. I believe, and I think you know that I believe, Mr Speaker, that maintaining the balance of power and the usefulness of this Legislature and the usefulness of this institution is more important to the people of Ontario than a Conservative agenda, than a Liberal agenda or, obviously, more than an NDP agenda. The institution itself

deserves defending, and that is what we are forced to do by the government House leader and Bob Rae. They are trying to "rape" this institution by the taking of unilateral power to ram legislation through this place at an unprecedented rate.

What is very upsetting to us who have sat through the previous Parliament is the total change in attitude by the experienced members of this Legislature. I would have thought that Bud Wildman and Ruth Grier and Mr Pouliot would go to Dave Cooke and said, "You know, I understand our frustration, but surely, surely you've got to negotiate."

2320

Interjection.

Mr Sterling: Well, there goes "Shirley" now.

Having gone through four or five years in negotiation with the other parties when they sat on opposite sides of this floor, I cannot understand particularly the New Democratic Party wanting to give any government the kind of powers they are seeking. I can't understand that, because they've got to know—they're only at 30% in the polls now, and the Liberals are higher than them, and we're almost neck and neck with them, even though we have an unpopular federal Parliament—that their chances next time are somewhat limited. "Somewhat limited" is perhaps being kind. If they change the rules for us—or for them—they're going to be sitting over here with their hands tied. They're not going to be able to do anything. They won't be able to get us to change our minds, they won't be able to get us to listen to their arguments—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Sterling: What is the point of debate if you can't make the government listen to you? How do you make the government listen to you? There's only one way, and that's either to delay or threaten delay. The government is clearly trying to cut off the opposition's opportunity to cause that kind of delay.

Governments in the past have managed to deal with oppositions. The former Liberal government managed to deal with the opposition. The former Conservative government for 42 years managed to deal with the opposition. Somehow this government, a year and a half after they're into power, can no longer deal with the opposition.

Mr Chiarelli: Because they're paranoid.

Mr Sterling: I think the member for Ottawa West is right. They are paranoid, and I think they're incompetent in terms of what they're bringing forward. The Premier is shaking his head, but I can only point to the pieces of legislation we have to deal with: The Minister of Housing's bill had 250 amendments to it. Bill 121 had 250 amendments to it. The health consent legislation had 199 amendments. Bill 150, which dealt with the investment bill of the Legislature and the employee buyout, had 51 sections and had 49 amendments to it. The Sunday retail shopping law which we had last year not only had amendments to it, the amendments didn't even make it. The law was scrapped in eight months.

The question of getting legislation before this Legislature to be debated for a reasonable period, before going to committee and being debated for a reasonable amount of time, is not a problem we've created. The problem has been created over there on the government's benches, because each piece of legislation they bring forward is fraught with mistakes. Often it doesn't seem to be clear as to what they're trying to do or not do with regard to their legislation, and the investment legislation was a prime example of that.

We are as frustrated as they are. We don't like to sit around here in the Legislature and be negative all the time. We want to be constructive in terms of fixing up government legislation. We have shown that on Bills 74, 108, 109 and 110. The government has given us all kinds of opportunity to deep-six that legislation. We have had all kinds of opportunity. In the justice committee on those bills, on which I have sat, we have had about 150 groups come in—

Interjection: How many?

Mr Sterling: One hundred and fifty, and out of 150, I think there were about five or six that were in favour, 145 against. What kind of an opportunity is that? The opposition could have sat there and said, "Why don't you just ditch this legislation?" In fact, I think the government was considering that. But no, the opposition didn't say, "Ditch the legislation." We said: "Let's try to fix it up. Let's listen to the groups," and the government came forward with 200 amendments.

It's complicated legislation, and in that one I'm glad they brought in 200 amendments; that was fine. But I think they have to admit, when they have to amend legislation to that degree, that maybe they didn't listen closely enough at the first blush. Maybe they didn't consult with the people who are going to be affected by the consent legislation. All 24 health care providers, as recognized under our health professions legislation, were against the legislation.

I think the member has a problem back there. He's got his hand up.

Mr Stockwell: Yes, you can go.

Mr Villeneuve: Washroom? Go ahead.

Mr Sterling: We have a lot of debate to carry on with regard to the standing orders. I have not yet started to discuss this committee's report in 1985, because there are still some good suggestions with regard to some of the things we considered some five or six years ago. Basically, I think I'd like to hear from some members of the back bench of the government. I'd like to hear what their ideas are so they can make their lives more meaningful as MPPs.

I've sat on a lot of committees in this Legislature and I have found—

Mr Mills: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: The member has said he'd like to hear of something from me or some of our members. How many times is a member allowed to repeat the same gibberish without you calling him to order? This is the same thing for hours and hours, and the people who are watching this must be thinking we've all gone mad here. This is absolutely ridiculous, and it's time to get on with the business of the House.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: On a point of order, Mr Speaker: I cannot let the member for Durham East speak in those tones about getting on with the business of the House when I, as House leader for the official opposition, have day after day offered to go ahead with dealing with legislation, and they won't call their legislation. If the honourable member for Durham East wishes to get on with the business, all he needs to do is ask his House leader to call some bills and we will be at it. I believe we can be out of this place by very early next week if they would just call their legislation, but they refuse us.

The Speaker: The member for Carleton, experienced member that he is, will recognize that repetition during the debates is not something that is appreciated. But the member can continue with his remarks.

Mr Sterling: I'm sure the member for Durham East would like to talk about waste disposal sites. I'm sure the member for Durham East would like to talk about a number of matters. But the member for Durham East doesn't realize what the Premier of Ontario is doing with regard to these changes in rules. He's hijacking this place. The member for Durham East should understand that the Premier is going to be able to run this place out of the corner office, and you or I or any other member of this Legislature is going to have nothing to say about it. That is what is being tried in this Legislature, and that's why we are upset in this party. That's why the opposition is upset. We find it most distasteful that this government continues to insist on its agenda for changes to rules without any consultation with the opposition parties. We find that totally against all tradition in this place. To my knowledge, it's not happened in 125 years. I know it hasn't happened in the last 15 years. And with that, I will adjourn the debate.

2330

The Speaker: I'm sorry. The member's motion is not in order, having moved the adjournment of the debate previously.

Mr Sterling: Mr Speaker, I then move to adjourn the House.

The Speaker: That motion is in order. Mr Sterling moves the adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Call in the members; a 30-minute bell.

2355

The Speaker: Would all members take their seats, please. Mr Sterling moved the adjournment of the House.

All those in favour of Mr Sterling's motion should please rise and remain standing until the count is completed.

You may be seated.

All opposed to Mr Sterling's motion should please rise and remain standing until the count is completed.

You may be seated.

All members who are present in the chamber at the time when a vote is being taken are required to vote, and a vote must be cast either for or against.

Mr Elston: On that point, we understand our obligation to vote in this House at particular times. We were under the impression, I guess, that certain arrangements had been made, that certain commitments had been arrived at, and as a result the member for Carleton moved the adjournment of the debate around 11:30 of the clock as we understood the arrangement to have been.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: I wish to register in the strongest terms possible our concern that these—

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order.

Mr Elston: I think it's not worthwhile, Mr Speaker.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. The House leader for the opposition has the opportunity to complete his remarks.

Mr Elston: No, I think it's not worth the time.

The Speaker: I regret to inform the members that under our standing orders all members who are present in the House are required to vote either for or against. I would ask the members of the opposition to so indicate either their support or lack of support for the motion that was proposed by the member for Carleton. The member for Bruce places the Speaker in a very awkward position.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order. Members are obliged by the rules to cast a vote and if the members do not cast a vote they will be—

Interjections.

The Speaker: I'm sorry, the members are then out of order. I would ask the House leader for the official opposition to very seriously consider that if a vote is not cast then the members are out of order, and you know where that leads: to being named.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Would the member resume his seat. It being beyond 12 of the clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 of the clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 0002.

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